

In City Life —

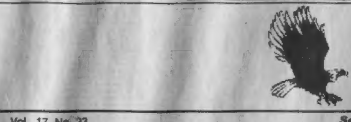
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Vol. 17, No. 23

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

Al Sharpton sentenced to ten days in jail for protest



Rev. Al Sharpton is led away by State Police for obstructing traffic on the Atlantic City Expressway on July 3. photo by William Frazier
By John Curran

ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — The Rev. Al Sharpton was sentenced to 10 days in jail last Wednesday for obstructing traffic during a racial profiling protest last summer on the Atlantic City Expressway.

The 45-year-old civil rights leader, who remained free pending a scheduled surrender, vowed to use his incarceration to bring more attention to the practice of profiling.

He welcomed the attention he expects will come from the jail term, saying he was treated differently because he is black and because he was protesting the practice. Atlantic City has seen protests by Miss America Pageant opponents, labor unions and others, but none have been jailed for it, he said.

He was convicted Nov. 4 of two counts of obstructing traffic during the July 3 sit-in, which backed up traffic entering this casino mecca for miles on one of the busiest weekends of the year. About 200 people participated in the protest over the New Jersey State Police's practice of stopping motorists based on their race. Sharpton and 75 others were arrested and released that day.

Sharpton, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was joined in Municipal Court by 45 supporters who arrived on a chartered bus. The group was led by Martin Luther King III and NAACP president Kweisi Mfume to visit him in the Atlantic City jail.

But he called his prosecution an extension of racial profiling, saying he was treated differently because he is black and because he was protesting the practice. Atlantic City has seen protests by Miss America Pageant opponents, labor unions and others, but none have been jailed for it, he said.

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City News

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Senate considers bill on no funding for Minorities in College!!

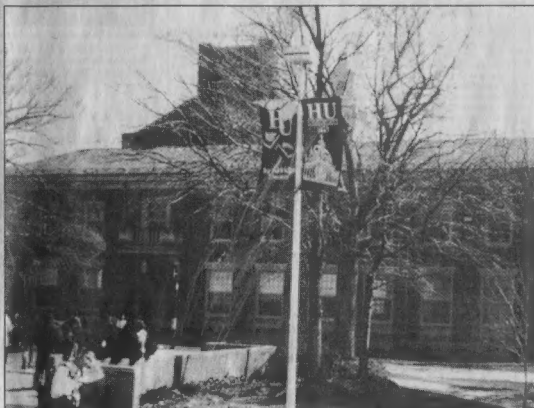
WASHINGTON — A bill will be heard in Congress next week to prohibit affirmative action in admissions for any institution of higher education that receives any federal funding (Pell grants, loans, etc.).

This would end affirmative action in every college and university in the United States. Rep. Frank Riggs (R-CA), Chairman of the House Education Subcommittee on Children, Youth, and Families, an anti-affirmative action in admissions amendment Act is voted on the floor next week.

The amendment would prohibit all institutions of higher education from using affirmative action in its admission decisions. If even one student at the institution receives federal funds (i.e. a Pell Grant or Student Loan), they would be violating federal law under this proposal.

Affirmative action would be illegal even if the school believes it is necessary to ensure a diverse student body, or to remedy past or present discrimination.

Call members of Congress (202) 224-3121 and the President (202) 456-1414.



Hampton University

Payne's Bill urges Black History to be taught everyday

Kelly Foster
Staff Writer

NEWARK — Assemblyman William D. Payne (D-Newark), an advocate of quality education, has urged the New Jersey Department of Education to incorporate the history and contributions of African-Americans into mainstream curriculum in New Jersey schools.

Payne has reintroduced a bill (A-249) that would establish a 21-member commission to coordinate and other programs on slavery African-American history in New Jersey schools, as a year round curriculum. Payne's legislation languished in the legislature last session.

The commission is named Amistad Commission, in honor of a group of enslaved Africans who overthrew the slave ship Amistad and later had their case argued successfully in the United States Supreme Court. "Joseph Cinque (a slave) rose above the fear to lead the men aboard Amistad to freedom," Payne said. "Youngsters can learn from this courage and other stories of African-American courage that they too can rise above the fear to do anything they dream to achieve."

The goals of the commission are as follows: surveying, designing, encouraging and promoting implementation of individual and awareness programs in New Jersey concerned with African slave trade, slavery in America, and the contributions of American-Americans in building our country.

Developing workshops, institutes, seminars, and other teacher training activities to educate teachers on this subject. Coordinating events to memorialize incidents associated with the enslavement of Africans and their struggle and liberty.

Studying the extent that African-American history is currently being taught in New Jersey schools and work to create courses to study this matter acting as a liaison between the schools and members of the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives and NJ State Senate and General Assembly to compile a roster of individuals willing to share their share their knowledge on this subject matter with students.

Payne explained the need for



Students are flanked by Dr. Leonard Jeffries and Assemblyman Payne, whose bill it passes would mainstream Black History in school curriculums. Photo by Herb Glenn

African-American history to be taught in schools. He said that segregated schools made sure Black history was taught, but in the north, the only history discussed was slavery, and only briefly at that.

"The depiction of slaves stayed on my mind, juxtaposed with pictures of the Union army. You saw how armies fought, but they didn't show Blacks fighting. In every war in this country Blacks fought, but we're not taught that. I want to teach that."

"I think it's one small step in having it declined. Racism is based on ignorance."

Payne mentioned that his commission is modeled after the Holocaust Commission in N.J. "My legislation is patterned after the Holocaust to some degree, said Payne. "If you can

NAACP reaches agreement with NJ State Police Superintendent

By Ralph Siegel

TRENTON (AP) — By initiating changes to boost recruitment of minority troopers, State Police Superintendent Carson Dunbar evidently has rid the agency of one of its lingering legal problems.

Attorney General John Farmer and lawyers for the NAACP said Wednesday they have reached a deal to settle a lawsuit filed by the NAACP in 1996 charging that the State Police engaged in recruitment and screening practices that discouraged minority applicants.

Dunbar has overseen a stepped-up minority recruitment campaign with expanded staff, direct outreach to sources in minority communities, more spending on ads and billboards, and a stated determination to make sure a large segment of the initial applicants are black, Latino or female.

The NAACP claimed the entrance exam and a proposal to require a college degree would pose barriers to minorities. A new exam was prepared to screen the current recruits, and the college requirement has been postponed for three years as the State Police accept applicants with two years of college and two years of general work experience.

The State Police has spent the past year under fire for its treatment of minorities within the ranks and in the general population.

A report released last July by Farmer's office detailed racial discrimination in hiring and promotions and criticized recruiting efforts as inadequate. Black troopers told lawmakers at Assembly hearings they did not feel they had the same opportunity for career advancement as white troopers.

State Police officials have said they want to ensure that at least one-third of the applicants for current openings are minorities. The legal settlement does not require state officials to accept quotas or minimums for the number of applicants actually accepted for the entrance examination or for academy training.

More than 5,000 applicants, about 2,000 were invited to take the exam last weekend. A federal judge Friday rejected a legal filing by five white applicants who claim they were not admitted to the exam because of reverse discrimination.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

UNION — Owendyn Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, will be at the Kean University Contemporary Writers Program at 7:30 p.m. The lecture will be held in the Wilkes Theatre, 100 Morris Avenue in Union, NJ. The event is FREE of charge, however tickets are required. Call (800) 527-2337 for additional information.

THURSDAY MARCH 16

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Education will hold its Mid-Year report meeting at 7 p.m. in the PHS Library. With the exception of executive sessions, all meetings including committee meetings are open to the media and public.

FRIDAY MARCH 17

MORRISTOWN — "The Minstrel Colosseum" is a coffeeshouse concert series run by the Folk Project. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Joanne Melt and Carla Litvich. Joanne is a harpist and Carla is a songwriter. Show starts at 8:30 p.m. and requires a \$5 cover. Call (973) 335-9489 for additional information.

SATURDAY MARCH 18

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Education will hold its Joint Board/Council Liaison Committee meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the PHS Library. With the exception of executive sessions, all meetings including committee meetings are open to the media and public.

MONDAY MARCH 20

JERSEY CITY — Karen DeAngelis, director of the New Jersey City University Women's Center, will speak on the College Level Examination Program, and How to Earn College Credits, from 12-1 p.m. The seminar will be held in the NUCU Women's Center, 32 College Street. The campus program is FREE of charge. For more information and to register, call (201) 200-3189.

TUESDAY MARCH 21

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Education will hold its Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Woodland School, Central Street and Woodland Avenue. With the exception of executive sessions, all meetings including committee meetings are open to the media and public.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Education will hold its Business Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Woodland School, Central Street and Woodland Avenue. With the exception of executive sessions, all meetings including committee meetings are open to the media and public.

media and public.

NEWARK — Prominent sociologist Dr. James Henslin will discuss "The Sociology of the Changing American Society" during the Sociology Week lecture series at the main campus building at Essex County Community College, 303 University Avenue. All the programs are free and begin at 1 p.m. For more information, call (973) 877-3250.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22

JERSEY CITY — The Council on Hispanic Affairs of New Jersey City University will hold its annual scholarship Fund benefit dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the North Lounge of NUCU's Michael Gilligan Student Union. Tickets are reserved at \$30 per person. Call (201) 200-3425 for more information.

MONDAY MARCH 27

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners will meet at 7 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Thompson Park Administrative Office, 805 Newman Spring Road.

TUESDAY MARCH 28

NEWARK — Newark Immunization Initiative Partners to Immunize Newark Kids cordially invites you to the Second Annual Clergy Dinner in support of Immunizations for Children from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The dinner will be held in the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Calverton Annex, 231 Lyons Avenue. For more information, call (973) 926-6978.

SUNDAY APRIL 9

MORRISTOWN — Outstanding high school artists from central and northern New Jersey will participate in an exhibition at the Morse Museum starting April 8 to June 5. The Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, is open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, students and senior citizens. Call (973) 538-0454 for more information.

TUESDAY APRIL 11

ORANGE — The First Anniversary Vigil and Rally for Earl Paxon and all victims of Police Brutality will be held at the Orange Police Headquarters, corner of Lincoln and Triumf Avenue. The rally is sponsored by the People's Organization for Progress. For further information, call (973) 643-7711.

SATURDAY MAY 20

LINCROFT — The Monmouth Park System will hold a summer job fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dorbrook Activity Center, Route 537, Colts Neck. For more information, call (732) 460-1167.

Jeffries begins development of African-American Library



NEWARK — From left, Rev. Bernard Wilks, Thomasina Lemon, Elizabeth Flowers and Patricia Agost-Perkins join Dr. Leonard Jeffries at Metropolitan Baptist Church to help create "Libraries with Black Literature." Jeffries, a professor of African Studies at CCNY, will continue the project at Mount Sinai Baptist Church and Bethany Baptist Church.

Cablevision and MetroChannel help build home for Habitat for Humanity



NEWARK — From left, Don Viapre, Cablevision, Sakina Banks, Stephon Banks, Sakinah Banks and Darlene Henstley, MetroChannel attended the dedication ceremony of the Cablevision/MetroChannel House, 287 Littleton Avenue, Newark. Habitat for Humanity president and founder, Millard Fuller, was also on hand for the dedication. The two-story home is one of four tri-state homes sponsored by Cablevision and the MetroChannel.

New Jersey City University honors scholarship students



JERSEY CITY — Dr. Brian Hurwitz, right, congratulates students, from left, Yessica Valle of Newark, Socorro Santana of Dover, Joann Padilla of Jersey City and Carlos Morales of Bloomfield. The Special Education and The Multicultural Center of Jersey City recently honored the scholarship students in the Project PEERS program.

Bollwage joins volunteers from Generous Generations



ELIZABETH — Mayor Chris Bollwage, center, joined the eager youth volunteers from Generous Generations in dispersing food, clothing and candy to the less fortunate children around the city of Elizabeth. Generous Generations is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching kids how to help other kids who come from less fortunate families.

Black History Moments



Althea Gibson
1927—

In 1956, Althea Gibson became the first black to win a major tennis title when she won the women's singles in the French Open on May 26. She won the Wimbledon championship on July 6, 1957, becoming the first black to win these honors. She was also the first black to win a major U.S. title.

Missing person



Nine-year-old Asha Degree disappeared from her home on Feb. 14 between the hours of 2:30 and 6:30 a.m. Charlotte, NC's channel 3 website has posted this child's information to keep up the awareness about the child. The site is www.wbtv.com.

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Black quotes to live by...



I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision, I have finally been included in "We, the people."

Barbara Jordan
(1936-1996),

Spingarn Medal, 1992;
congresswoman from Texas.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

CLINTON TO CHANGE FOOD STAMP RULES TO HELP POOR OWN BETTER CARS

WASHINGTON D.C. — President Clinton announced that he plans to make it easier for recipients of food stamps to own a decent car, the Chicago Tribune reported.

"If you want more people to work, you've got to help them get to work," said Clinton.

Clinton emphasized that this program would help disadvantaged people get jobs that are far from their homes.

Current food stamp laws state that if a family has too many assets, it cannot get food stamps, which are distributed through the national coupon program to subsidize grocery bills. The present eligibility rule states that families cannot own a car valued at more than \$4,650.

Clinton will replace the existing dollar limit with an equation that will permit families with a small equity in their cars to get food stamps. This would take place regardless of the vehicle's value.

The White House estimated this would help 150,000 families.

RANGEL SAYS BUSH OWES BLACKS AND JEWS AN APOLOGY

NEW YORK (NNPA) — Congressman Charles Rangel said that the apology to Catholics by Republican Presidential hopeful George Bush was not enough.

"An apology to Catholics was needed, but it's not enough," Rangel said. "Blacks and Jews have also been offended by Bush's failure to denounce the racist policies of Bob Jones University or anti-Semitic statements by people associated with his campaign."

Black people are due an apology because Bob Jones University has an official policy against interracial dating which is clearly aimed at Black students," said Rangel.

Rangel said he was similarly outraged that people in the Bush campaign or its supporters have made "insulting comments about Jews that Bush refused to even repudiate, much less apologize for."

U.S., CANADIANS ARE ORGANIZING GAS OUT TO PROTEST HIGH GAS PRICES

NORTH AMERICA — Canadians and Americans alike are organizing themselves to protest on April 7-9 against the rising price of gasoline that has been skyrocketing since last month.

Gasoline prices have ranged from \$1.50 to \$2 per gallon for premium gas as a result of the slow production of oil from many oil companies.

As a result, by media and emails, people are organizing a "gas out," a day in which people decide to not buy gas as a protest to oil companies.

Last year a gas out was organized on April 30, which caused a significant drop in price afterwards. Many are looking to yield the same results as before.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ISSUES STATEMENT ON MOZAMBIQUE FLOODS

WASHINGTON D.C. — President Clinton issued the following statement regarding the Mozambique floods in Africa:

"I am deeply saddened by the devastation caused by flooding in southern Africa, which has worsened over the past few days. Almost a million people in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe have lost their homes or their livelihoods, and tens of thousands of people in Mozambique are stranded in flooded areas and require urgent rescue," he said.

"Today we are allocating \$1 million, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, to support aircraft for critical search and rescue operations and the delivery of relief supplies. In addition, we have already provided over \$1.8 million to fund air transport, prevent disease, deliver supplies, and support relief efforts. Two aircrafts from the Department of Defense are on the way to deliver shelter materials, blankets and other relief supplies. Also, we are dispatching a Disaster Assistance Response Team to the region to determine other ways that we can help our friends in Southern Africa.

The thoughts and prayers of the American people are with the people of this region as they cope with this disaster."

Rep. Waters could be first female VP



Congresswoman Maxine Waters

WASHINGTON D.C. — In an article appearing in Parade magazine's February 20 issue, the White House Project identified Rep. Maxine Waters, D-CA, — along with 14 other women — as one of its candidates to appear on a national ballot highlighting the top women leaders who possess the record and credentials to be Vice President.

The White House Project serves as a non-profit, non-partisan public awareness campaign to change the political climate so that women can launch successful campaigns for U.S. presidency and other key positions. It is also committed to raising awareness of women's leadership in American politics.

Created by the White House Project, the ballot brings together such top women leaders as Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-CA, Gov. Jane Dee Hull, R-AZ, and U.S. Army Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy, to name a few.

According to the project's president, Marie Wilson, the ballot intends to demonstrate the growing strength and significance of women's leadership.

You can cast your ballot choice by going on-line to The White House Project's site (www.whitehouseproject.org). Ballots will be accepted until March 15 and the winners will be announced in the April 30 issue of Parade magazine.

NEA honors Samuel Ethridge as "A Civil Rights Hero"

WASHINGTON D.C. (NNPA) — The National Education Association board of directors celebrated at its annual board meeting celebrated Black History Month by holding a special memorial tribute to Samuel E. Ethridge, who was described as "one of the unsung heroes of the modern civil rights movement."

Ethridge, as the top African American official at NEA, led the fight for the desegregation of local organizations and brought NEA into the center of the civil rights movement. Ethridge, 76, had been invited to participate in the tribute to his historic life and for his many contributions to NEA. However, he had been ill from diabetes and died on January 14, 2000.

NEA President Bob Chase said, "NEA is indebted to Sam Ethridge for his enduring work for quality public for all students. 1964 to 1984, during a 20-year career as an Association executive, Sam served as a major civil rights leader who centered NEA within the civil rights movement."

Chase said Ethridge was instrumental in the desegregation and merger of white and black teacher groups; "negotiated delicate issues such as NEA's participation in school desegregation litigation; employment of staff in the formerly dual Southern states; correction of inequitable and unequal racial treatment of educators and students; and insuring that NEA would remain committed to human and civil rights."

According to Chase, Ethridge's historical legacy is



NEA President Bob Chase (second from left) presents award to Cordia Baylor Ethridge, widow of Samuel E. Ethridge, who died in January. From left to right: NEA Vice President Reg Weaver, Chase, Chicago civil rights attorney Thomas Todd, Ethridge, Sybil Connolly, Chair, NEA Black Caucus, and John Lucas, honorary member of the NEA board of directors.

becoming more acute in light of the current trend of racial segregation of public schools.

At the NEA Memorial Tribute, Chase presented NEA's highest award to Mrs. Cordia Baylor Ethridge in recognition of her husband's outstanding leadership.

One of Ethridge's former students from his years as a public school teacher in Mobile, Ala., renowned Chicago civil rights attorney, Thomas Todd, was the keynote speaker. Todd electrified an audience of 100 NEA board members, staff and guests, in an eloquent and inspirational speech about Ethridge's life and how "Sam walked down a dirt road and impacted the lives of thousands of teachers and millions of students."

Todd shared memories of his

relationship with Ethridge in Alabama and invited the audience to "leave the information super-highway and walk down a dirt road with me to put Sam's life in context." He urged the audience to consider the difference between "simply making history versus making sense."

"Clarence Thomas made history, but does he make sense?" Todd asked. "George Wallace made history, but did he make sense?" Even O.J. [Simpson] made history, but he never made sense. Just because you make the headlines and so-called history, doesn't mean you make sense. But Sam Ethridge who didn't make the front page, not only made history but made complete and absolute sense."

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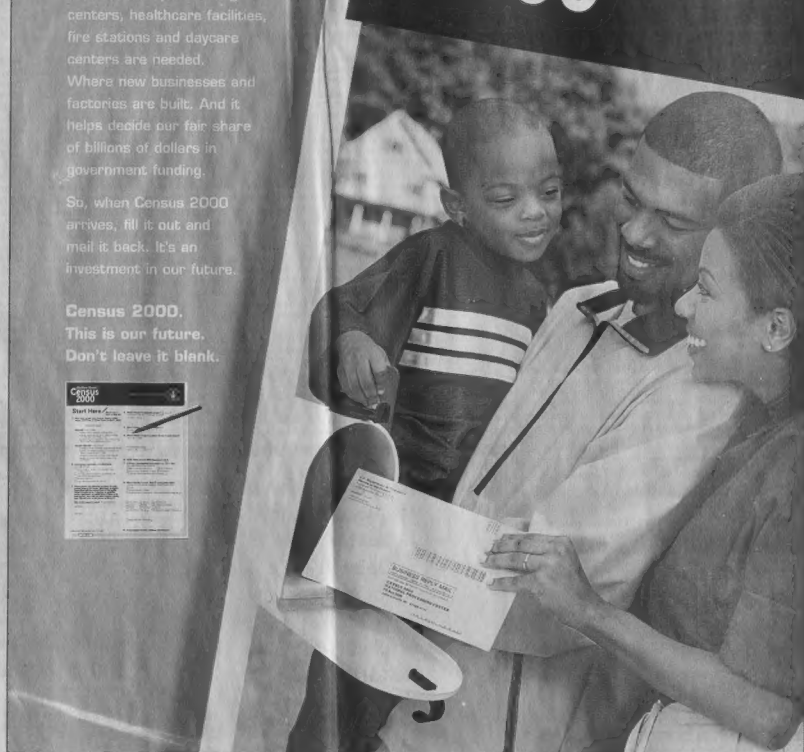
Where new businesses and factories are built. And it helps decide our fair share of billions of dollars in government funding.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As news of the verdict spreads through this nation, we the National Black Police Association-Northeast Region, and our 50 organizational members, add our collective voices of sympathy to the Diallo Family. We share your pain and express our regrets over the death of your son and the injustice visited upon by our American justice system. We support you mind, body, and soul. We are outraged and appalled over the verdict which devalues the lives of people of color locally, regionally, and nationally. And we, some of our members have attended the demonstration rally. As president of this organization have given interviews to the FOX network and the Connecticut Post Newspaper expressing our dismay.

All over this country young and old are protesting, highlighting their lives as they interact with police. As these cases are investigated and adjudicated almost always they express

fear for their lives as the reason for these tragedies, and I assert to you that if their fear is genuine, maybe they should look to other vocations. Nationally, black police officers show much more respect and are less likely to be involved in these types of incidents. Why? From New York City to Providence Rhode Island even Black Police are being maimed and killed by their white counterparts who routinely view most blacks as criminal. I also ask the Justice Department and the media to monitor and rigorously investigate this phenomenon. If this action goes unchecked it will be a national disgrace. From a safety standpoint, how would you like to be in a life threatening situation and the only person immediately available to help you is a black man that has to pause and ponder the reality that if the police come they may make the mistake and take him for the criminal. His only defense would be that he is extinguished. So you see it affects us all.

David Daniels III

More Diallos

Dear Editor,

To say that race had no bearing in the Amadou Diallo case is a lie. The thing that killed Mr. Diallo was the doorway of his own home was nothing short of naked fear brought on by sheer racism.

There were four black jurors and that fact is pointed out frequently within mainstream media. A less publicized fact is that each of them are from law enforcement families.

The police claimed that they feared for their lives. That can happen to anyone. But, these officers are trained professionals who are given the power to use extreme force in situations where it is warranted. They are expected to use judgment, caution and objectivity in a crisis. Forty-one bullets by four officers aimed at one man — with one bullet entering through his foot — is no example of police professionalism. When John Hinckley shot former President Reagan, he left the scene in handcuffs, riding comfortably in the back of a D law enforcement vehicle. He was not shot and killed. Use of force was adequate for the situation. That is what makes the Diallo shooting insufferable. The best it was fear and panic. At worst, hate. Either way, New Yorkers cannot afford to have men of such poor judgement and caliber roaming neighborhoods with guns and a license to kill. Anybody can be a panicked killer. We cannot give license to that.

There is a simmering outrage growing in black communities throughout the nation. There were no riots in the Bronx.

But there were protests outside the United Nations headquarters taking the case to the world court as Malcolm X noted over 30 years ago. Black media owners come together in nationwide appeal to end this legalized savagery. Black communities and leadership have grown up and are demanding more than Band Aid solutions to police brutality.

The solutions start with firing the officers. They do not have the professionalism to conduct themselves competently. Investigation into this tragedy and the New York City Police Department with regard to race is in its infancy. Next, there should be no problem in fast-tracking the Diallo case. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents should be on top of this case with both feet.

We call for the establishment of a federal review board to investigate and analyze cases of police brutality and questionable shootings.

Finally, we call on the people of New York, and every other community plagued by racist police practices, to hold their leaders accountable. Politicians who tolerate this sort of behavior should not be tolerated themselves for they endanger the lives of the very people they have sworn to serve.

Our sympathies go out to the Diallo family and to all other families of those who were victims of police violence. We will be more sorrowful if the people of the United States are of this type of race to continue.

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

The protests over the verdict in the Amadou Diallo case, which I understand and sympathize with, unfortunately create the illusion that we can solve the problem of racism in the courts.

I don't believe we can. Even a Federal Court proceeding on the issue of Diallo's civil rights cannot resolve the problem of racism. Serious and positive structural changes are needed to do that. The most unsettling message of the Diallo verdict is not that the jurors were wrong, but that they were right. The police officers were simply "doing their job"—in the context of a social environment that is profoundly racist and corrupt.

The non-violence and cohesiveness of the protests show that the community has gone through a change and has matured in certain ways. But arguably not much has changed for the Black community over the course of the last ten years of protest. Rev. Al Sharpton however, who led many of these protests, is in a substantially different position than he was during Crown Heights or in the Yusuf Hawkins case in Bensonhurst ten years ago. In Crown Heights, Rev. Sharpton was battling Mayor David Dinkins. In the Diallo case, Dinkins is marching alongside him, while Dinkins is no longer mayor. In the Hawkins case, Rev. Sharpton went up against the Black establishment. Now he is part of it.

Sharpton has become a Democratic Party leader. The Black Democratic Party made his peace with the Democratic Party and has greater access to politicians and policy makers.

Justice For Strohmeier, What About Iverson?

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

NNPA — When asked by a Las Vegas prosecutor during his recent court hearing what he hoped to gain by a trial, Jeremy Strohmeier said "I want justice." Even though he was not the prosecutor, and the court turned down his request for a trial, the fact that the prosecutors and the judge agreed to hear his plea for a trial was in itself more justice than he probably deserved for his admitted crime. That crime was the rape and murder of Sherrie Iverson, a seven-year-old African-American girl, on May 25, 1997 in the woman's bathroom at the Primadonna Casino near Las Vegas.

On Oct. 14, 1998 Strohmeier escaped the death penalty by pleading guilty to the murder and received a life sentence without possibility of parole. The grotesque and ghoulish murder of Iverson for the briefest of moments took a gruesome national spotlight on the issues of race, class, gender, child neglect, and the glaring double-standard in the treatment of poor, working class, blacks vs. middle-class whites within the criminal justice system.

That double standard was much in evidence throughout the Iverson tragedy. Even the face of his overbearing, overpaid, overindulged prosecutors and judges bent over backward to give Strohmeier the widest possible latitude to make these claims in interviews and court.

His confession to police was coerced — His pal David Cash who witnessed at

I have said this to Rev. Sharpton on more than one occasion. His rise in Democratic Party politics has not produced a change in the patterns of racial violence. If it had, the Black community wouldn't still be protesting racism and police violence, as it has been forced to do for so many, many years.

My focus has been on creating structures that make it possible for the protests to yield something other than validation for the Democratic Party, an institution which has perpetuated the environment in which these racist incidents occur. The Democratic Party is a political party, not a cultural and media institutions—its like a web—and the institutions which make up this web claim that they will overcome racial bias and brutality.

Yet, the evidence shows that they can't. Yes, they accomplished some important and useful things. But the fight against racism requires that we work outside these structures to engage the cultural and political issues that must be engaged to impact on our situation.

When Rev. Sharpton and I worked together in Bensonhurst in the Yusuf Hawkins case, I was hoping that we'd see our way clear to go in an independent direction together. I have no personal criticism of him for not having done so, though I believe it was a loss to the African American community. If he had become an independent, I believe that we'd be in a different situation today.

Large numbers of Black people would have followed him into independent politics and become part of a third force. He would have aided the process of creating new structures immensely, and it would have moved

least part of the sexual assault on Iverson and did nothing to stop it actually may have committed the murder.

That he was an uneducated, unloved, abused, shackled out, drugged out, alcoholic who should not really be blamed for his barbaric crime.

Under the gentle prodding of Barbara Walters on ABC-TV's 20/20 to again depict himself before a national audience as a misguided, confused, and desperate man, his latest play, Strohmeier claimed that his attorney, Leslie Abramson was a greedy, money-grubbing bully who intimidated and browbeat him into pleading guilty. The court still took two full days — and in the process he got national media coverage — to decide not to grant him a trial. This is much more than countless numbers of poor, black defendants convicted of crimes under highly questionable circumstances have ever gotten. And it still may not be over. In the nearly three years since her murder, there was no monetary appearance by her parents in the courtroom during his sentencing to vent their anger at him for murdering Iverson, their pain and suffering as well as that of Iverson's family members and friends has barely registered a blip on the media and legal cart.

That he was an uneducated, unloved, abused, shackled out, drugged out, alcoholic who should not really be blamed for his barbaric crime.

Strohmeier was a very bright, extremely bright kid from a stable, comfortable middle-class home in Long Beach, California and

The White Supremacy experience in Dixie

By Manning Marable

NNPA — How far has America actually progressed toward more constructive race relations?

Judging by some recent events, not much. During this year's legal holiday marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I was invited to speak at a small, predominantly white Southern college. For decades, this school had been racially segregated, like other all-white public colleges and universities. The college's first black faculty member had been hired only in the early 1980s. Nevertheless, the initial reaction to my visit was friendly and positive. From administrators, faculty and representatives of the student government association, who had sponsored my visit. Nothing to the least prepared me for what I would soon encounter that evening.

My lecture that night was before an audience of perhaps 500 people, consisting mostly of students and a significant number of African Americans from the surrounding community. I spoke about the enduring legacy of Martin, the necessity to achieve social justice, and the urgent need for constructive dialogue across America's racial chasm.

A white male student jumped out of his seat, even though he had no organized clapping, and raised his hand to ask the question. When I acknowledged him, the student read "white" and "colored." Yet I characterized as "reverse discrimination." He insisted that both he and many of his friends had lost scholarships and jobs to unqualified

minorities. I replied that statistically less than two percent of all university scholarships were "race-based," that, designated for blacks and Hispanics. Affirmative action was necessary because of the discrimination that was still rampant, and blacks frequently were unfairly charged more for goods and services than whites. I cited one major study illustrating that blacks who owned and purchased automobiles at white car dealerships were charged significantly more than whites who bought the same cars.

The white student was unimpressed and unapologetic. His precise words were unclear, but his essential response was, "then the blacks ought to chop—somehow else!" Suddenly, a significant number of white students burst into applause, and a few even cheered. Surprised and saddened, I quickly responded that this discrimination was illegal and morally outrageous, and that blacks shouldn't have to shop in another country in order to be treated fairly in the marketplace. Don't misunderstand my point here. As a middle-aged black man, I spent many summers in Dixie during the 1960s. I experienced Jim Crow segregation firsthand, and white racism is hardly a new phenomenon to me.

But the white students at this formerly segregated college had no organized knowledge of what Jim Crow was about. They never saw black people being denied the right to vote, or signposted on public restrooms reading "white" and "colored." Yet they felt no hesitation, no restraint, to proclaim their prerogatives as whites, over and above any claims that black people made for

up the timetable for major reforms that make dealing with structural racism possible.

How do we address the structural basis of racism? We create new structures and involve the African American community in a range of multi-racial, multi-dimensional endeavors—new cultural forms, new political forms, new educational forms. You can't protest racism and be effective, if those protests are channeled into institutions that are a part of perpetuating racism. It is a vicious cycle that we have to break out of.

The programs I've been building, for example, the Al Sharpton program, a major anti-violence program for inner city youth, was created outside of the existing structures of politicians and funding sources and think tanks. These programs are independent and are therefore not constrained by their relationship to the established forces. They can create new structures independent of new ways of looking at and dealing with racial polarization. We need all kinds of new and independent structures.

Some small political parties like the one in my home state—the Independence Party of New York and the national Reform Party. More and more African Americans need to become involved in these parties, not only free unconstrained by the racist history and activity of the Democratic and Republican parties.

We must argue that if Blacks go independent we split the Democratic Party vote and elect Republicans. But in New York, for example, Blacks didn't go independent and a Republican—Rudy Giuliani—was elected. He got elected because the Democratic coalition splintered on the issue of racism.

had traveled widely. Iverson lived in South Central Los Angeles. Her father, Leroy Iverson and her mother, Yolanda Manuel, were in the area at the time of the crime. This was another sad instance in which the media reflexively does the deepest human interest probe of the case. The lives, feelings of middle-class whites, while minimizing, if not outright ignoring, blacks, even when they are the victims.

The killing of Iverson, though heinous and shocking, did not ignite the hyper-charged media frenzy of the cases of Louise Woodward, the British girl convicted of manslaughter in a baby's death in Massachusetts; Melissa Drexler, an 18-year-old high school student in New Jersey who abandoned her five-year-old son; and a 7-year-old raped and strangled in New Jersey; and Polly Kassin, an 11-year-old who was murdered in California. The victims were all young and non-black.

The contrast in the media coverage of the JonBenet Ramsey case, the five-year-old white girl murdered in Colorado, and the Iverson case was even more dramatic. There have been dozens of articles in national magazines and newspapers that delved into the background of Ramsey and her family and only a handful on the lives of Iverson and her family. Strohmeier was allowed to fully tell his story, given kid glove treatment by the media. The Iverson case received scant attention. That's the kind of justice most convicted murderer-rapists never get.

equality. In effect, this was "white supremacy" blind to the historical dynamics and social consequences of racial oppression, jealousy of any benefits achieved by blacks from the American dream, and a deep-seated suggestion that racial minorities should be compensated for their exploitation. The reform logic of white supremacy is that reformers who champion racial equality and social justice are the "real racists." And as I subsequently learned, a number of white students in the audience were cheering and others the next morning, after my talk, demanding to know why this black "racist" was invited to speak at their campus!

What particularly struck me by this incident was the deeper anger displayed by some whites in the audience. One can disagree with someone else's political perspective, yet behave in a civil manner. Something I had said, or perhaps, what I represented, had generated white rage bordering on irrational hatred. This same kind of white bigotry has been instrumental in the recent public outcry very over the flying of the Confederate battle flag over the South Carolina statehouse.

Why have McCain and Bush refused to condemn a flag that journalist Brent Staples has described as "a symbol of choice among neo-Nazis, skinheads and other bigots?" For the white students, the white students became outraged when I talked frankly about the history of white privilege and racial discrimination. Many white Americans refuse to honestly acknowledge the racism that exists if they did, they would have to confront the moral equivalent of the Nazis who ran Germany's death camps.

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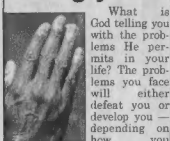
Religion

CITY NEWS A6

March 15 — March 21, 2000

Prayer Corner

What is God telling you?



What is God telling you with the problems He permits in your life? The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you — depending on how you respond to them.

Unfortunately most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. They react foolishly and resent their problems rather than pausing to consider how benefit they might bring.

God uses problems to DIRECT you. Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways. Proverbs 20:30.

God uses problems to INSPECT you. People are like tea bags; if you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water. Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you?

When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience." James 1:2-3.

God uses problems to CORRECT you. Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It's likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something — health, money, a relationship — by losing it.

"It was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws. (Psalm 119:71-72)." God uses problems to PROTECT you. A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious.

Last year a friend was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss had asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem, but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when management's actions were eventually discovered.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." (Genesis 50:20).

God uses problems to PERFECT you. Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you're going to take with you into eternity. Here's the point: God is at work in your life even when you do not recognize it or understand it. But it's much easier and profitable when you cooperate with Him.

Please submit your calendar items to:
Religion Calendar

CITY NEWS

111 Mulberry St.

Newark, NJ 07102

Newark clergy speak out on Diallo verdict



Rev. Dr. Ronald Durham ponders the Diallo verdict while another minister consoles him.

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

It is unwise to wake sleeping giants, but apparently no one told that to the members of the New York State Judicial System or the jurors in the Amadou Diallo shooting trial. The decision in that case has aroused the ire and activist spirit of Newark's black clergy and politicians, who are up in arms and ready to take to the streets to protest it.

"Enough is enough," said Congressman Donald Payne, D-10th District, which includes Newark and parts of Elizabeth, Hillside, Linden, Rahway, Roselle, and part of Union.

"We've prayed, said we're going to do everything the law allows, but enough's enough. We got too comfortable."

Payne was at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 149 Springfield Avenue, on March 2 with a host of other clergy, community and social activists and elected officials to protest the decision in the Diallo trial.

Everyone in attendance said

they feel the verdict in the Diallo trial and other incidents around the country over the last few years are symptomatic of a disturbing trend in America.

They cited undeniably racially motivated incidents in Texas — where a black man was dragged to his death behind a pickup truck by drunken whites — the problem of racial profiling on the New Jersey Turnpike, and a host of other injustices including the Diallo shooting as proof.

They also urged the crowd in attendance and black people throughout New Jersey and the rest of the country to get organized and get ready to take some action.

"I truly believe there is a climate that has given rise to what we see in Texas and New York," said Reverend David Jefferson, the pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church.

"It is a climate that suggests individuals are something less than human, so whatever is done to them is justified. That's not the case."

How does the Word inspire you?

By Michael Blackmon

Ruth is one of the Bible's most heroic women. The Old Testament Book of Ruth is one of the shortest books in the Bible, only four pages long. You can read it in 15 minutes. It would make terrific reading to close out the summer.

Ruth was a foreigner to the Israelites, a Moabite girl who married into a Jewish family who fled to Moab to escape a famine in Israel. But tragedy soon struck. Naomi, the Jewish mother, first lost her husband and then her two sons, including Ruth's young husband. Naomi's sweetness turned to bitterness and she returned to her native Bethlehem.

Ruth devoted herself to her widowed mother-in-law, returning with Naomi to Bethlehem. There, Ruth chooses Naomi's people and their God as her own. "Wherever you

lodge, I will lodge. Your people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Because Naomi was a poor widow, Ruth made herself useful by going to the fields and harvesting the grain left behind after the harvest. The servants were amazed at the industry of this foreigner.

The field belonged to a man named Boaz, a distant cousin of Naomi. Boaz honored the Mosaic Law by leaving grain on the edges of his field for the poor and foreigners.

But Boaz did more than he had to. He instructed his reapers to leave even more grain for Ruth to glean. Thus Ruth and Naomi experienced the compassion that the Israelites traditionally showed to strangers, widows, and orphans.

Ruth later married Boaz. They had a son Obed, grandfather of King David. Ruth a

Gentile woman, became the great-grandmother of a King and an ancestor of Jesus Christ. Ruth was rewarded by becoming part of Israel's royal heritage.

There are many Ruths in today's society. Their reward may never be as glamorous as Ruth's, but they can do no better than caring for an elderly parent.

Parents are living much longer, and often a son or daughter takes care of them as their health starts to decline.

These heroic people deserve a special place in heaven. When we are faced with caring for a frail parent or child, we should see it as a special call from God.

Accept it as part of God's plan. Answer God's call with devotion and love, just like Ruth. Sure, it can tie you down, but you will also receive a touch of God's abundant life.

Rev. Eugene Rivers III hosts 2nd annual NPCA meeting

NEWARK — Mayor Sharpe James and Police Director Joseph D. Santiago, in conjunction with Rutgers University, held their 2nd meeting of the Newark Police Clergy Alliance with special guest Reverend Eugene Rivers III.

Director Santiago stated, "The Department has been working extremely hard during the last three years to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. We believe to maximize our effectiveness it is necessary to increase community support and involvement. In the past five months, talking to the clergy, the department has learned many things."

One of the primary goals of the alliance is to help keep the clergy informed with accurate information about the department, its operations, policies, procedures and police-related incidents. Because of the alliance, the clergy has been armed with accurate

information about how it operates over the past five months.

The partnership has created a forum for the free exchange of information. This information has been used in the development of police policies and procedures that may impact the city's residents.

Working with the clergy for the past months, the department has become more active in the development of joint programs designed to keep the city's youth from becoming involved in criminal activities, James said.

Rev. Eugene Rivers III, best known for his National Ten Point Leadership Foundation, which he is cultivating grassroots church leadership in 40 of the most violent inner-city neighborhoods in the country. Rev. Rivers' Alliance was shared at a meeting that Sgt. Niles Wilson attended with the Police Executive Research Forum in July 1999.

Calvary Baptist to host fashion show

PLAINFIELD — It's a spring affair and what better time to show off fashions of the millennium — men striking a pose — as they do their thing on the runway.

The Christian Men Stepping Into Fashion, "is an event you don't want to miss."

The event which is being

sponsored by the Flower Club of Calvary Baptist Church located at 324 Monroe Ave., Plainfield will take place March 25, at 4 p.m. Donations are \$25.

For addition ticket information please call: (908) 750-7390 or (908) 661-5737.

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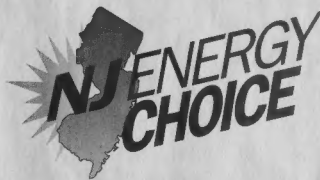
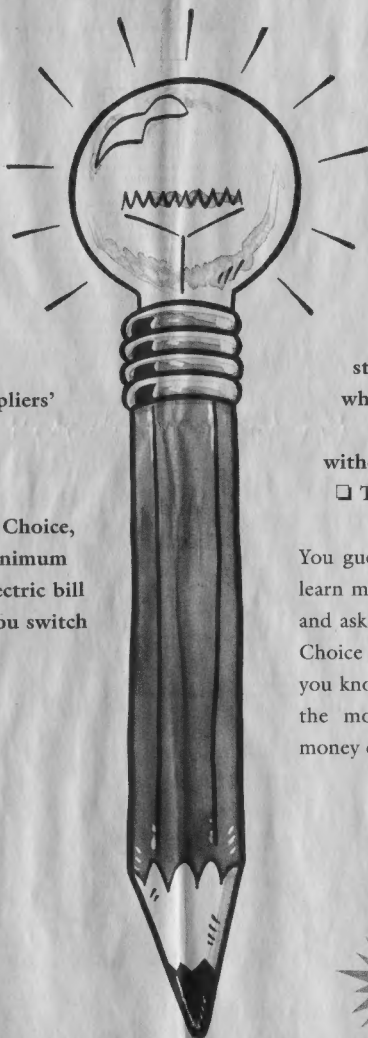
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Local Briefs

FISCAL SHOCK TASK
FORCE BILL ADVANCES

NEWARK — Five months after Assemblyman Donald Tucker's, D-29, Newark property revaluation bill was signed into law, he is sponsoring legislation to form a task force to study "fiscal shock" in communities that haven't undergone a revaluation in decades.

The Assembly Local Government Committee recently released the bill, A-1803, that would establish a task force to monitor revaluation "fiscal shock" in municipalities that undertake long overdue property revaluations.

While delayed revaluation can save property owners increased taxes, in many cases it also puts a strain on the local government to provide services," said Tucker. "Revaluation is a double-edged sword. While there should be fair and equitable taxes in a township, a revaluation shouldn't put more of a burden on the local government than it takes in communities where there are tax-exempt properties."

"Property values can be severely undervalued, which in growing urban centers may have significant 'fiscal shock' to the taxpayer," said Tucker.

The task force outlined in Tucker's bill would be made up of seven members — one appointed by the Assembly Speaker, another appointed by the Senate President, and the remaining five by the governor.

"Newark was overdue for a revaluation, but my law protected both the taxpayer and the community from being forced into a fiscal crisis," said Tucker.

LAPOLLA WINS
UNION COUNTY LINE

UNION — Seventh District Congressional primary candidate Michael J. Lapolla won the Union County Democratic organization line at a screening of the Board of Trustees held at Gallopino Hill Estates here Saturday.

Lapolla garnered the endorsement of the Board of Trustees that included municipal chairs from 16 Union County towns located in the 7th district.

"It pleases me that the Trustees elected me to run in a town with the County organization candidates. I want to work hard in Congress to get things done for the families that call this area home and this endorsement is a giant step in that direction," said Lapolla.

Lapolla, who entered the race in January, lives with his wife, Susan, and three-year old son, Michael Edward.

MARCH 20 IS
VOTER REGISTRATION
DEADLINE DAY

TRENTON — The president of the New Jersey School Boards Association recently reminded citizens who are not registered to vote that they have until March 20 to do so if they want to participate in the Year 2000 annual school board election.

On April 18, voters will have the opportunity to approve or reject their districts' proposed 2000-01 school budgets and to select the men and women who will represent them on their local boards of education. More than 90 percent of the state's 602 local school districts have elected boards of education. Approximately 1,500 school board positions will be on the ballot statewide.

"An effective school board is critical to quality education for children," said Charles V. Reilly, NJSEA president. "These public officials, who serve without compensation, set the educational policies for the school districts, negotiate employee contracts, approve the hiring of teachers and oversee expenditures totaling more than \$12 billion statewide."

"School board members are the largest group of elected and appointed public officials in the state. Their role is vital to the community. New Jersey citizens should make every effort to participate in the elections."

Newark's budget holds line on spending

NEWARK — Newark's proposed year 2000 municipal budget projects a small increase in the tax rate, while also absorbing the salaries and fringe benefits of 220 police officers, increasing the operating hours of the city's health clinic, expanding recreational, cultural and housing and development activities.

The "2000 Newark Management and Financial Plan," introduced recently by Mayor Sharpe James' administration reflects a tax increase of 74 cents or three percent over the 1999 rate of \$24.53, and a total increase of almost \$30.9 million — \$21.9 million of which will cover police department personnel previously funded by a federal grant that expired at the end of last year.

The money also will be used to hire an additional 50 school crossing guards.

"We have managed to hold the line on spending for the last several years. The slight increase in the tax rate of 3 percent is in line with an average annual cost of living allowance nationwide and should have a minimal effect on Newark property owners, who currently

pay the lowest property taxes in Essex County," James said.

The proposal has been presented to the Newark City Council, which now has the responsibility of reviewing and introducing the spending plan to the public for discussion prior to its adoption. James called the \$555.4 million spending plan, a "true millennium budget that sets Newark on the right track to continue our progress and growth well into the 21st century."

The most important component of the proposal is the public safety of Newark's residents, workers, businesses, college students and visitors, according to the Mayor. And the absorption of 220 police officers and 34 other police department personnel funded under President Clinton's COPS program account for the lion's share of the year 2000 budget increase, he said. The federal program provided Newark with \$16.5 million over a three-year period to hire additional police. This amount was matched by the city.

The \$115,642,327 Police Department budget is the largest segment of the city's operating bud-



Mayor Sharpe James

get and is a 23.4 percent increase or \$21.9 million more than last year's. James pointed out, "For the first time in many years, the table of salaries in our Police Department is at its maximum of 1500 officers. Their effectiveness is acknowledged by the continued decline in the crime rate of almost 45 percent over the last three years."

The \$51.5 million budget for Newark's Fire Department is \$2.3 million more than last year.

The \$32.3 million proposed by the Department of Neighborhood and Recreational Services accounts for the third largest portion of the budget — a \$750,000 increase in the department's operating budget over last year. This is a result from litigation that now requires the city to pick up refuse at large apartment complexes. Sanitation services account for nearly 76 percent of the agency's overall budget.

The Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, which comes under Neighborhood and Recreational Services, also will be expanding its programming year round and through the five wards, James noted.

Of the total \$555.4 million proposed budget, approximately \$404.1 million is for municipal purposes, an increase of \$26.1 million over last year's spending plan. An additional \$84.2 million is for the local school district, which has held constant for the last five years, and \$40.6 million is the city's share of taxes to Essex County.

The city's "Housing 2000" plan is to provide land throughout the City to developers at nominal prices to build two family town-

house-style homes. The goal, according to the chief executive, is to construct 5,000 housing units by the end of the year.

The Department of Engineering has included \$500,000 in its \$28.9 million budget proposal to provide safety measures in the roadways adjacent to and bordering Newark's public school.

"These physical improvements near our schools, plus the additional 50 school crossing guards, are an essential element of my commitment to our children and their parents to guarantee our youngsters' safety as they walk to and from school," James noted.

Newark Department of Health and Human Services will continue to serve the community through its Pediatric Healthcare van and will expand the hours of its various clinic to accommodate more clients and make the various health and other social services offered by the city more accessible to residents, according to the Mayor's budget message.

Dr. James West, National Inventor Hall of Fame inductee, visits Newark school thanks to KISS FM radio station



Newark — Eighteenth Avenue School in Newark recently hosted a discussion featuring KISS FM radio personalities Bob Slade, Bob Pickett and James Munn. The school, which is located at 229 Eighteenth Avenue.

The radio team was also accompanied by Dr. James West, a scientist who is a National Inventors Hall of Fame inductee. Michael Pickett, who is a member of the Parents' Music Resource Coalition; and a representative from 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement.

The event featured a radio-style discussion format and covered topics such as entertainment, law enforcement, science and technology.

Dr. West and the other guests led the discussion, which was followed by a question-and-answer session on

Black History. Students also had an opportunity to quiz the Open Line team.

Dr. West was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for inventing the foil electret, which is used in over 90 percent of microphones; the Parents' Music Resource Coalition is a White House panel chaired by Tipper Gore.

"The students are very excited about the KISS presenters and the other guests that came to the school," said Principal Barbara Coleman.

"Many of them were prepared for the event by carrying out research, utilizing the school library and local libraries, and accessing the Internet."

All students at the pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade school were able to attend the event and some were selected by a panel of teachers, students and the school librarian to represent the school during the quiz session.

Dr. West was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for inventing the foil electret, which is used in over 90 percent of microphones; the Parents' Music Resource Coalition is a White House panel chaired by Tipper Gore and 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement addresses racial equality and justice issues in law enforcement.

Rice submits bill to keep school playgrounds open later hours

TRENTON — Senator Ronald L. Rice recently called for the Senate to pass his bill to encourage 11 urban school districts to keep elementary-school playgrounds and facilities for academic enrichment open after regular school hours.

"This represents an important step to protect young school children and also assist in their development," said Senator Rice, D-Essex. "We're targeting young children, elementary school age, in urban communities."

"Once school lets out, these children often get left to their own devices until their parents return home from work," he said. "This bill would establish someplace where these young people can go to learn and stay out of harm's way too."

Senator Rice's bill, S-313, would let 11 school districts create organized recreational and academic enrichment programs for public-school pupils at elementary-school playgrounds, gymnasiums, and other facilities that the schools own, maintain or manage.

The districts include Aebury Park, Atlantic City, Camden, Elizabeth, Irvington, Jersey City, Newark, Passaic, Paterson, Plainfield and Trenton.

The bill further calls on each of the 11 school boards to draw up a comprehensive plan that details the program's objectives in ar-

ring local residents, its recreational and academic programs, who will supervise it, who can participate and how much it will cost.

"It would require school districts in these municipalities, if the governing body approves and passes a local ordinance, to keep at least half its elementary-school playgrounds, gyms and other facilities open after regular school hours."

Senator Rice called on Senator Robert Martin, R-Morris, who heads the Senate Education Committee, to post the bill at the panel's next session.

"This bill addresses the hue and cry that we must do more for our young people," Rice said. "The state Supreme Court has already ordered New Jersey to spend more for urban school children."

Rice said this bill picks up the same theme and tries to improve the quality of life for urban young people.

In urban communities, Rice said the scourge of drugs threatens young lives at every street corner.

"Parents instill values in their children and then turn them over to a sometimes-harmful real world," he said. "With this bill, we try to help children retain their positive values as we safeguard them from the harsh realities of the urban landscape."

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Newark resident named contest finalist in Essence model search



NEWARK — Valencia Willis was named as a finalist of the Essence cover model search with Wilhelmina Model

Willis was one of the 7,000 entrants from mail entries. She will be one of the ten finalists flown to New York City to compete for more than \$10,000 in modeling contracts and prizes, an appearance on an Essence cover in the year 2000, and tickets to televised Essence Awards being held on April 4, at Radio City Music Hall.

The first prize is a guaranteed Wilhelmina modeling contract worth \$50,000.

Valencia Willis

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Celebrate women's history month!

Women's History Month Calendar of Events

MARCH 15-21

MONTCALM STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER EVENTS

UPPER MONTCALM — Laina Day "Dominion York," a performance/facility by Dominican performer, Josefina Diaz, Dickson Hall, Room 176, March 15, at 9 a.m.

President Susan A. Cole will host the Presidential Achievement awards, Dickson Hall, Room 176, March 16, at 3 p.m.

Celebrate MSU's Women Studies Major with an open microphone slam Student Center Ballroom B on March 20, at 12 p.m.

A women's coffeehouse and gallery will be held to showcase women's creativity in the Student Center Rainskellar, on March 20, at 7 p.m.

A reading and discussion about women with disabilities will be held March 21, at 3 p.m., Dickson Hall, Room 176.

Call (973) 855-5114 for more information.

MARCH 15-28

THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S EVENTS

NEWARK — Artist Mary Ann Miller will be discussing her artwork on March 15, from 12 to 1 p.m.

New Jerseyinger Nancy Schill will be performing her tunes on March 22, from 12 to 1 p.m.

A discussion on Alice Paul, founder of the National Women's Party, will be held March 29, from 12 to 1 p.m.

Admission is free for all programs. Call (973) 596-8500.

MARCH 23

NEWARK — The Salvation Army of Essex presents a fashion boutique to assist "Welfare to Work participants" at the Salvation Army's Newark West Side Corps from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (973) 623-5559, ext. 211 or (973) 648-4749.

MARCH 30

NJN Public Television will be airing "Anni Hobson Pilot-A Musical Journey." NJN broadcasts on Channels 23.50, 52, 53 and all New Jersey cable systems, 10:30 p.m.



Harpist Anni Hobson Pilot performs her works on television March 30.

WOMEN IN JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and The New York Public Library present a jazz festival at the Langston Hughes Auditorium, New York City.

MARCH 20

Join Emma Kemp and the Spelman College Jazz Ensemble at 7 p.m.

MARCH 27

Carmen Lundy and Lenora Zenzlaski perform at 7 p.m.



Carmen Lundy will perform in New York on March 27, 7 p.m.

An Entrepreneurial Spirit—Carol Patterson Brooks takes control



Carol Patterson Brooks, right, accepts her award from Jeff Burris, Jr. at the Ebony Outstanding Women awards at the Hilton Towers in New York.

By Kelly Foster
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — She has an impressive resume: she's one of Business News New Jersey's Top 20 Business People, she's won the National Black Public Relations Society's Founders Award and the Network Journal's 40 Under 40 Award; the company she started recently won the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators' IRIS Awards of Excellence and Merit, and PRAME awards from the National Alliance of Market Developers.

She is one of the few public relations professionals to be certified by the Public Relations Society of America. And, if that wasn't enough, she was honored by Ebony Magazine as one of her outstanding women in marketing and communications for her entrepreneurial skills.

Brooks had a yearning to start her own company. She had the business acumen and the contacts.

So, after feeling overlooked and underappreciated, Brooks founded Correct Communication, a multicultural marketing company, in 1992. CC deals with advertising, public relations, event marketing, and strategic

planning.

The company has a full time staff of 10, along with independent contractors. Brooks' clients include Allstate Insurance Company, Colgate-Palmolive, The Gillette Company, and Maybelline, among others.

Brooks said the most difficult part of being in the corporate world is dealing with the "Old Boy Network"—the traditional power structure of white men. Her biggest challenge was being taken seriously.

It has been difficult for her to get into the right circles, she said. "It was pretty much a white man's world," she said, "but that's changing now."

Fortunately, she had a myriad of experience. Before she started Correct, Brooks had developed communications strategies for General Motors, Miller Brewing Company, SmithKline Beecham and the House of Seagram, while serving as director of The Mingo Group.

Prior to the Mingo Group, Brooks worked for the City of Newark and Essence Communications. She said her business skills were honed from networking at Essence.

Other projects keep Brooks on her toes. In keeping with the theme of multiculturalism, Brooks has formed a collaboration with Arcos Communications, a Latino-oriented firm, and with David Eng communications, an Asian focused agency.

The product is Cross Cultures, a multicultural marketing communications company. Their first client is Center Care Health Plan, New York City's eighth largest HMO.

"Collectively, people of color make up the majority of the world's population," said Brooks. "As America's demographics shift, clients are beginning to change

the way they look at ethnically targeted marketing and Cross Cultures is here to help."

CC's advertising campaign, which is due in May, reflects the city's diversity. "We're using this to get others. We'd like to have three clients for our first year," Brooks declared.

All this sounds impressive, but Brooks has more on her plate. Somehow, she finds the time to teach a public relations course twice a week at Seton Hall University, as an adjunct professor. She also conducts workshops

'Collectively, people of color make up the majority of the world's population. As America's demographics shift, clients are beginning to change the way they look at ethnically targeted marketing.'

Carol Patterson Brooks

and presentations at leading industry functions including the International Event Group annual conference, Marketing Opportunities in Black Entertainment, and EPM Entertainment Marketing Conference.

The varied atmosphere of a marketing and public relations company keep Brooks happily occupied. She is not the kind of person who thrives on monotony.

"I like the flexibility and freedom of being on my own," she said.

Correct is currently directing the national African-American

and Hispanic public relations and outreach for Senator Bill Bradley's presidential campaign. Since the campaign season has been underway, Brooks has been especially busy, usually working from about 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Brooks' admiration for her industry colleagues is evident. She admires people like Dorothy Brunsen, owner of a television station in Philadelphia.

"I think she's the first Black woman to own a TV industry. She's a pioneer in communications, very down to earth, and she makes her brother, I want to be like her," Brooks cheerfully confessed.

Also among her circle of admirers is Pat Tobin, who owns a public relations firm and is the national president of the National Black Public Relations Society. Brooks met her at Essence, and was impressed with the respect Tobin commanded from her clients.

"She took me under her wing, and she continues to share information with me, like telling me what to watch out for, and the games people play."

Winning the Ebony award was a humbling experience for Brooks. She was exhilarated to be honored along with Caroline Jones, founder of Caroline Jones Incorporated, and a former "Advertising Woman of the Year." "I was glad to be on the same level as her. It's wonderful to have that kind of legacy. These women (other award recipients) set the standard. It's a privilege to be recognized with a person like that."

What is the secret of her success? "Doing what you love and making a profit," said Brooks, "but also being able to maintain your integrity."

For example, CC will not take tobacco companies as clients.



Women of the media unite: (l-r) Ann Tripp of 98.7 Kiss FM, Pat Prescott of CD101.9 FM, and Anna Carbonell of WNBC, Channel 4, take a minute to strike a pose at the Ebony awards event in New York City.

A HISTORY OF FIRSTS, A LEGACY TO LAST THE EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF ELAINE R. JONES

By Kelly Foster
Staff Writer

Elaine R. Jones is accustomed to being first.

As the President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and its first female leader, Jones has accumulated countless accolades and honors, both during her current term and during the two decades of experience as a lawyer and civil rights activist.

Jones was recently honored as one of 10 remarkable African-Americans in the legal profession by Court TV, in their series Great Legal Minds in African American History. The channel ran a series throughout February, coinciding with Black History Month.

The LDF, a public interest law firm dedicated to pursuing equal rights, has offices in New York, Washington DC, and Los Angeles. It was founded in 1940 and is the nation's oldest law firm that battles for civil rights for women and people of color. Though founded by the NAACP, LDF remains a separate entity from it, complete with separate board program, staff, office, and budget. Lawyers for LDF have successfully argued many state court

cases as well as U.S. Supreme Court cases that abolished discrimination and racial segregation. One such example is the well known Brown v. Board of Education, in which public school segregation was officially overturned.

As a child, Jones dreamed of pursuing a career committed to pursuing justice, knowing since the age of eight that she wanted to champion for equal rights as a lawyer.

Upon her graduation from Howard University, Jones joined the Peace Corps and became one of the first African-American women to serve in Turkey. She quickly followed that feat by becoming the first Black woman to enroll and graduate from the University of Virginia law school.

Shortly after law school, Jones joined the LDF, turning down an offer to join a prestigious Wall Street firm. At LDF she was one of the first African-American women to defend deathrow inmates.

In the landmark 1972 case Furman v. Georgia, Jones served as counsel of record in a case that abolished the death penalty in 37 states. Another "first" awaited Jones when she originated the position of legislative advocate in Washington, D.C. office of

the LDF. She committed herself to defending people who had been left out of the economic, political, and social mainstream developed a reputation as an accomplished negotiator.

Under Jones' supervision, the LDF played a pivotal role in getting the following legislative landmarks passed: Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982, the Fair Housing Act of 1988, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

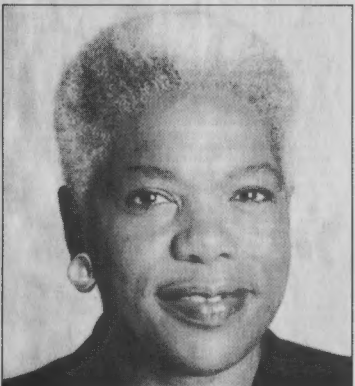
In 1989, Jones was elected to the American Bar Association Board of Governors, becoming the first African-American woman to hold that distinction. Though that term ended in 1992, she continues to be active in various other legal and civil rights associations.

Since 1993, when Jones was appointed Director-Counsel, LDF has broadened its agenda to include environmental justice and health care reform, while continuing to fight for equal rights in employment, housing, education and other areas.

What is next for this woman who has broken so many legal barriers during such an illustrious career? Surely more awards, accolades, and achievements, but for her it's not what is next, but what was first.



Rev. Al Sharpton shakes hands with a guest before giving the invocation at the Ebony event in New York City. Photos by Kelly Foster



NAACP Legal Defense Fund President and Director-Counsel Elaine R. Jones was honored by Court TV in February for her outstanding career. Ms. Jones has served the Legal Defense Fund for over twenty years and has achieved an outstanding career by breaking barriers in the legal world. Pictures courtesy of the Legal Defense Fund

'NO JUSTICE NO PEACE'

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

The war for civil rights is in full-effect mode.

Protesters from across the nation, approximately 3,000, strong assembled in Washington D.C. on March 2 to call for justice for Amadou Diallo, the West African immigrant who was shot 41 times by four New York police officers.

They came arm in arm carrying banners and signs with phrases like "Police Training 101, It's a Wallet, Not a Gun," and chanting "No justice! No peace!" that spoke to the injustices plaguing Black Americans.

Local organizations like Peoples Organization for Progress (POP), Women In Support of the Million Man March (WISOMM), Black Cops Against Police Brutality (BKAP) and others made their presence known in the capital.

These organizations joined forces with Rev. Al Sharpton, the parents of Amadou Diallo, Kadiatu and Saikou Diallo, and others — former New York City Mayor, David Dinkins, activist Dick Gregory, and the wife of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Jackie, in seeking justice through the federal court.

Surely, Diallo's civil rights were violated, when police officers Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon, Kenneth Boss and Richard Murphy fired a hailstorm of bullets into the unarmed West African immi-

Surely, the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department should be able to sort through the mess the prosecution made in presenting, what many considered an open and shut case.

grant.

Surely, the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department should be able to sort through the mess the prosecution made in presenting, what many, considered, an open and shut case.

The prosecution failed to cross examine key witnesses and did not attempt to take the jury to the scene of the crime.

Now U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, is reviewing evidence to decide if there were any federal civil rights violations in the shooting. The officers involved could face federal charges.

However, to get a conviction, it would be necessary for the federal prosecution to prove that the officers premeditated in denying Diallo his civil rights. The officers assumed because Diallo was black and peering out of his front door made him appear suspicious.

The acquittal verdict, which the officers received, has galvanized people of all nationalities, and it has spawned an outcry for injustices like these to be exposed for what they are — a total white wash.

Vote.com has just posted a new referendum asking whether federal charges should be filed in the Diallo case. All votes will be sent to the U.S. Department of Justice. This is an important and controversial issue. We encourage you to log in and make your vote count at <http://www.vote.com>.



Photos by William Frazier artistic design by Herb Glenn

Heartbeat Calendar

MARCH 13
NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey AIDS Foundation and the New Jersey State Foundation present a free, full-day legal information workshop. New Jersey Law Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (732) 937-7516

MARCH 15
CLARK — The American Cancer Society invites Union County residents local businesses, volunteers and cancer survivors to attend the ACS Relay for Life Kick-Off event at the Casual Time Restaurant, 1085 Central Ave. 7 p.m.

MARCH 16
BELLE MEAD — The Camer Clinic will host a lecture on Alzheimer's Disease at the Atkinson Amphitheater, Route 601, 12-1 p.m. Free to the general public. (908) 281-1461

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — The monthly Caregiver/Alzheimer Support Group of Rumelt's Specialized Hospital will meet from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Family Conference Center. (908) 771-5635

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital is sponsoring a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the hospital's conference center. (732) 745-8528

MARCH 21
ELIZABETH — Union County College is hosting an open house on nursing careers in the Theater, from 7 to 8 p.m. (908) 709-7516

BRIDGEWATER — The American Cancer Society is sponsoring the 1st Annual Relay for Life. The Somerset County Kick-off will be held at the Somerset Elks Lodge, from 6 to 8 p.m. (908) 725-4664

MARCH 23
SCOTCH PLAINS — The Mother's Center of Central New Jersey presents the workshop "Ten Things to Expect from Your Child" at the Scotch Plains Public Library Bantle Ave. 8 p.m. Free and open to the public. (908) 581-1751

Arthritis Foundation takes guess-work out of alternative therapies

ISLEIN — The Arthritis Foundation has released a first-of-its-kind book, "The Arthritis Foundation's Guide to Alternative Therapies," answering the public's growing demand for unbiased, medically sound information and advice on the burgeoning marketplace in alternative treatments.

This authoritative guide will help both people with arthritis and their physicians make informed health decisions regarding alternative therapies and help close the information gap between these groups.

"We've found that people with arthritis are increasingly using alternative therapies and have lots of questions," says Dr. Kenneth Bahr, Chair of the Patient and Education Services Committee for the New Jersey Chapter. "Unfortunately, most aren't discussing their use of alternative therapies with physicians."

Physicians know it, too. Yet despite this fact, only 40 percent of physicians initiate a discussion on alternative therapies with their patients, according to an exclusive study commissioned by Arthritis Today, the Arthritis Foundation's bimonthly, consumer health magazine.

"We hope this book will provide a level of education and understanding about alternative therapies and encourage discussion between people with arthritis and their physicians," says Dr. Bahr. "But this book doesn't endorse any one form of treatment over another or replace the advice of a physician."

The Arthritis Foundation's "Guide to Alternative Therapies" was reviewed for accuracy by more than 50 physicians and health care experts.

The book delves into areas such as alternative healing systems: mind/body and spirit/proper and spiritual massage and bodywork; food and arthritis herbs and supplements.

This book should help physicians and patients learn how alternative therapies may be integrated with mainstream medicine to make a difference in someone's overall health," says Bill Arnold, M.D., a rheumatologist and chief medical editor of this book.

Congressman John Lewis sponsor bill to bridge health care gap



By U.S. Representative John Lewis

Health care is not a privilege. It is a fundamental human right. It is a civil right. And, just like the right to vote and the right to equal opportunities in education, housing and employment, we need to make sure that this right is available to all of our nation's citizens, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sex or income.

The statistics speak for themselves. African American men have the lowest life expectancy of all Americans: 66 years versus 74 years for white men. African Americans have a cancer death rate about 35 percent higher than that for whites. The incidence rate for lung cancer in African American men is about 50 percent higher than for white men. Native Hawaiian men also have elevated rates of lung cancer. Alaska Native men and women suffer from higher rates of cancers of the colon and rectum than do whites. Vietnamese women in the United States have a cervical cancer incidence rate more than five times greater than white women. Hispanic women also suffer elevated rates of cervical cancer. Infant death rates among African Americans are nearly double those of white, Native, and Hispanic Americans. And, while the national average for minority populations are at a much greater risk for sudden

Infant Death Syndrome. Racial and ethnic minorities have higher rates of hypertension, tend to develop hypertension at an earlier age, and are less likely to undergo treatment to control their high blood pressure. The prevalence of diabetes in African Americans is approximately 70 percent higher than whites and the prevalence in Hispanics is nearly double that of whites. These are but a few examples of the gross racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care.

A Georgetown University study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the race and sex of patients influence physician recommendations for cardiac catheterization, the standard diagnostic procedure for coronary artery disease. The odds that African Americans who go to the doctor complaining of chest pains will be referred for catheterization are only 60 percent of those odds for Caucasian men. The odds for African American women are only 40 percent. The study acknowledges that "the disparity in making the referrals for treatment may be the result of overt prejudice by physicians."

Our nation has made unbelievable great advances in science and medicine. At the same time, today in our nation, minorities suffer more severe health

problems and die at a much higher rate than whites as a result of treatable health conditions. In fact, in many instances, minorities aren't even offered or given the same treatment for treatable conditions. Poverty, lack of insurance and the inability to pay for health care keep many from staying healthy, happy lives.

Here we are in the 21st century, determining who gets what health care and how based on the color of the person's skin or the weight of his wallet. This is not fair. This is not just.

That is why I have joined with Senator Kennedy in introducing the Fair Care™ the Health Care Equality Act (H.R. 3250) and have made it my priority to have it passed this year just as we did with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, by focusing attention and federal resources on the problem with this bill, we will take an important step toward bridging the health care gap that exists in our communities.

I have crossed a lot of bridges in my life and I intend to work with Senator Kennedy, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Asian Pacific Caucus and Hispanic Caucus and others to fight and struggle just as hard to make sure we see the other side of this one.

March is National Kidney Month

Did you know March is National Kidney Month and that 6000 people are currently awaiting a life-saving kidney transplant in New York and New Jersey?

Why not help save lives by donating your used car or real estate to the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey? As America's #1 choice for car donations, the Foundation will pick up the vehicle free of charge and issue a letter which can be used for tax purposes. All

donations help fund the Kidney Foundation in its fight to drive down the incidence of kidney, hypertensive and urological diseases which affect one in four people.

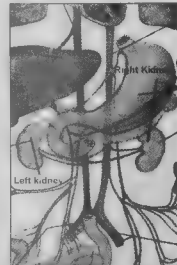
Through programs funded by the public, increasing organ donor awareness, cutting edge research and support efforts that help families and patients, the National Kidney Foundation of NYNJ is a crucial resource that touches the lives of thousands of people who may be your family, friends or neighbors.

National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey at 800-632-DONATE

The National Kidney Foundation is dedicated to the treatment and cure of kidney and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of

individuals and families affected by these diseases and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation. The Foundation receives no government support and relies solely on the generosity of corporations and individuals. The Foundation welcomes gifts of appreciated securities.

For more information on how you can make a difference and help give the gift of life, call the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey at 800-632-DONATE.



Melatonin: Nature's fountain of youth, prevents cancer, aids in depression

A question and interview session with Marilyn Johnson Kondwani, MA.

(NNPA) — Q. What is melatonin?

A. Melatonin is a major hormone produced by most living creatures even algae. In humans it is produced at night-time by the pineal gland located in the middle of the brain. Melatonin helps to set and control the internal clock that governs the natural rhythms of the body. Each night, the pineal gland produces melatonin to help people fall asleep. Melatonin levels usually peak at about 2 a.m. and decrease gradually during the early morning hours until sunrise when production stops in response to sunlight. Melatonin has been continuously researched since Dr. Aaron Lerner discovered it in 1958 at Yale University.

Q. Why is melatonin so wonderful?

A. According to Dr. Ray Sahelian of the Melatonin & Longevity Research Institute, over 40 million Americans with insomnia who have used melatonin feel that it has allowed them to avoid restless nights without having to use prescription sleeping pills, alcohol, valium or other drugs that could be addictive or otherwise harmful to their bodies.

The Harvard Health Letter calls melatonin a "natural sleeping pill that shifts the body clock in to the desired direction." When taken between three and six p.m., melatonin tricks the body into thinking that dusk comes sooner so people become sleepy earlier, helping insomnia fall asleep at 10 or 11 p.m. instead of tossing and turning all night.

Q. What are the major benefits of melatonin?

Besides helping people to get to sleep naturally, melatonin has been found to be helpful for almost every ailment because getting a good night sleep helps the body function better overall. People suffering with AIDS, allergies, Alzheimer's, arthritis, asthma,

birth control, heart disease, hypertension, jet lag, manic depressive disorders, sex, stress, thyroid problems and other health concerns have all reported improvement in their conditions using melatonin.

Q. How does melatonin work?

Melatonin is a powerful anti-oxidant. It improves the immune system helping it to function better and therefore prevent disease. There have been studies done where melatonin in their drinking water experienced an increase in life span by 25 percent.

Q. Is melatonin safe?

A. Women who wish to become pregnant should avoid using melatonin. Since our bodies usually produce sufficient melatonin to regulate sleep patterns until middle age, most people will not need to use it until after age 40. Researchers at the National Heart Institute in Bethesda, MA gave mice huge doses: 500 mg per kilogram of body weight in an attempt to find a lethal dose. The mice exhibited no significant ill effects but have even been a person to die as a result of using melatonin.

The only unpleasant side effects include fuzzy thinking for a few minutes in the morning upon awakening, unpleasant dreams, and in rare cases, low mood in those people who are prone to depression.

Q. What is the suggested dosage?

A. Dr. Ray Sahelian, MD, author of "Melatonin/Nature's Sleeping Pill," suggests melatonin is produced only in darkness, people should turn the lights in their homes for at least one hour before bedtime. Following treatment on thousands of patients in his practice with melatonin, Dr. Sahelian found the usual dosage for maximum benefit is a mere one of two mg taken before bedtime, however, Dr. Sahelian reports taking 40 mg (the sleepiest eight hours) with no residual side effects the next day.

Your chances of losing your baby are twice those of a white mother.

Do you want to do something about it?



Black mothers are more than two times as likely as white mothers to lose their babies before their first birthday. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services wants you and you to change these statistics. Call today for more information and after delivery. To learn more, call us at 1-888-414-BIBS.

Black Infants • Better Survival
 1-888-414-BIBS
 www.state.nj.us/doh
 from The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
 Christine Todd Whitman, Governor

Music Reviews



Toni Braxton *He Wasn't Man Enough* (LaFace Records)

Singer Toni Braxton has been known for her lamenting love songs that have nice, smooth grooves thanks to the ringing of her husky voice and Babyface's producing skills. On the single, "He Wasn't Man Enough," off the album, "The Heat," which is set for an April 25 release, Braxton carries that same torch that ignites those songs about no good men, but with a new twist.

In the song, Braxton is telling another woman about her experience with the woman's fiancé — Braxton's ex-boyfriend. Also new is producer Rodney Jerkins — known for the Brandy and Monica duet "The Boy Is Mine," who produced this single with a melodic R&B tempo flow that provides a nice introduction to Braxton's album.



Tina Turner *Twenty Four Seven* (Virgin Records)

When you're hot, you're hot, and Tina Turner knows all too well what that means. "Enter Twenty Four Seven," her latest album, that is as smooth as those trademark legs. Turner shines more on ballads like "Don't Leave Me This Way" and "Falling." Tina also becomes empowering in "All The Woman" talking about not buying into media images of what a person should be, and brings the same vibe to "Absolutely Nothing's Changed."

This is not the best of Tina, but does not fall below the status of a well-made album with its tight pop sound with a mix of classical and slight club music.

Rappers join in fight for justice in Amadou Diallo case

By Depti Hajeia

NEW YORK (AP) — The subset of Mos Def's letter to the hip-hop community was simple — 41 bullets. Forty-one shots fired by four white officers at an unarmed black man in the Bronx, 41 shots that sparked waves of protests.

The anger at the death of Amadou Diallo got the rapper thinking — about Diallo, about police brutality, about the feeling by many blacks and Latinos that they are police targets. And about what he and his fellow artists could do about it.

The result, a multi-song project against police brutality called "Hip-hop for Respect," is due out in late March on Rawkus Records — with the profits going to organizations that fight police brutality.

The project is being completed after a jury in Albany on Feb. 25 found the four white officers innocent of all charges in Diallo's killing. Defense attorneys argued their clients fired because they thought the young African immigrant had pulled a gun out of his pocket. It turned out to be a wallet.

But Mos, who is known for a socially conscious hip-hop, wrote his letter almost a year ago, just weeks after Diallo's killing in February 1999, to ask fellow rappers to join the project.

"We come from communities that don't have nobody to speak for them," the letter said. "Now I'm asking you and anybody who looks on this letter to come forward."



Mos Def

and show your heart. "To love the people who love you back by speaking out against the injustice that they suffer."

And they did come forward — from MTV. Known rappers like the Wu Tang Clan's Cappadonna and Flip Mode Squad's Rah Digga to hip-hop legends like Kool G Rap and De La Soul's Maseo are involved.

About 60 rappers spent a couple of days last April spitting lyrics for the "Hip Hop for Respect" project. Four songs — "14 Love," "Protective Custody," "Shade Never Knows," and "14 Love Part 2" — are to be released by Rawkus on March 21.

While Diallo's death was the catalyst for the project and is the subject for many of the verses, the larger focus is police brutality, said Mos' partner, Talib Kweli.

"I compare it to a town hall meeting where artists in our generation get to air what they feel about it," he said. "It's just something that needs to be heard. It's not about saying, 'Oh please stop.' It's about respecting ourselves enough to say, 'we're not going to allow ourselves to be treated like this.'"

From Shabazz Saheed "Too many of my guys have become monuments of silence. Laws take lives and condone it through sirens and nightsticks."

Common raps, "Yo, you wanna know how to improve on the quality of life? (They respect it), step in my zone with that madness and I'm checking it."

"As people we have to stand up." Posdnuos from De La Soul said at a video taping for "14 Love," which took place at a Queens shooting range. "Hopefully it can make people aware of the situation."

New York City crime rates have fallen dramatically during Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's administration. Civil liberties advocates argue that the fight against crime has led to police brutality directed

at minority communities, but city officials and many other people maintain the police are doing their best at a very difficult job.

Mos said those who refuse to recognize the existence of police brutality do so at their own risk.

"This is a very foolish attitude for folks to have, to think, 'it doesn't affect them,' he said. "It may not affect them today, it may not affect them next month, but you can expect the consequence of that type of activity to arrive on everybody's doorstep at some point or another."

The project follows other hip-hop collectives that spoke out against violence and gang warfare. "Self-Destruction" from Stop the Violence in 1988 and "We're All in the Same Gang" by The West Coast Rap All-Stars in 1990.

At a time when mainstream hip-hop is dominated by images of materialism and fast living, a cause like this is welcome, said King Kirk of the Sporty Thieves.

"Hip-hop is missing a message right now," he said. "This is something, it's for a real cause. It can make everybody look at the subject more seriously."

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Maurice White reveals recent reclusion from public eye

By David Baader

NEW YORK (AP) — Earth, Wind & Fire is riding a wave of renewed interest in its 70s hits and was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame recently. The band's leader, however, has been off the road for five years and is now revealing why. He has Parkinson's Disease.

Maurice White says the chronic neurological disorder prevents him from performing regularly with the band he started three decades ago.

He's publicly discussing his health for the first time.

"I just want to stop the rumors, so people will know where I'm at," he said in an interview.

Earth, Wind & Fire's horn-driven soul hits "Shining Star," "All in All" and "September" were radio staples of the 1970s.

White was with the rest of the band for the ceremony March 6 in New York City, joining a Hall of Fame class that included Eric Clapton, James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, the Monkees and the Lovin' Spoonful.

It's a particularly sweet honor for White, who always said he wanted the band's music to inspire musical art and entertain.

"That was the whole objective, to try to inspire young people to believe in themselves and to follow through on their ideas," he said.

"We've touched so many people with these songs."

Induction comes in the midst of a revival of interest in Earth, Wind & Fire's vintage hits, due largely to the popularity of a new radio format that specializes in '70s soul.

The band is a consistent concert draw, particularly last summer when it toured with Barry White. Original members Philip Bailey, Ralph Johnson and Verdine White. Maurice's brother — son a troupe of 12 other musicians and dancers onstage.

Since 1995, their live performances haven't included Maurice White, the band's primary writer and producer. It was said that White, 56, wanted off the road after 35 years.

By that time, he was already feeling symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. It's a mild case, kept under control with medication that primarily causes his right hand to shake. White figured the rigors of frequent travel would hurt efforts to keep the disease in check.

Parkinson's affects an estimated half million Americans. Other well-known people suffering from the disease include Pope John Paul II, actor Michael J. Fox and Muhammad Ali.

Symptoms include trembling and impaired balance, which grow worse over time.

"It took a long while for it to get to the state that it has grown to,"

"I'm not going anywhere," he said. "Not anytime soon."

"My doctors never told me to get off the road. It was always my decision."

He hopes he can help raise awareness about the disease, and it started with Monday's induction ceremony.

"I'll probably talk about it very briefly," he said. "The whole objective of being there is the tribute to the band, it's not my personal problem. Talking about the disease is the most important thing."

White's singing partner through the years, Bailey, expects that the achievement of getting into the Hall of Fame won't hit him until he arrives in New York.

"We really would like to have ourselves have more success today, and we were taking steps to make that the case," Bailey said.

When you're in your own world and you're going forward, it's hard to look back. Maybe I'll be able to later on.

Nothing annoys Earth, Wind & Fire members more than when people seem surprised they're still together, or suggests they make new records. After a four-year hiatus in the mid-1980s, they've been working — and recording — steadily since then.

"People say that so much that you really have to put it away in terms of your own sensitivity to it," Bailey said. "For a long time, it was

a sensitive issue."

Earth, Wind & Fire has found it next to impossible to convince radio stations to play their new music. Jammin' oldies stations are the only ones who make airwaves, but they're not interested in anything new.

"That's pretty frustrating," Bailey says. "And two, you have to muster up the courage and the fortitude to get back into the studio and do it again."

Earth, Wind & Fire hopes to take a lesson from Carlos Santana. His multi-platinum album probably wouldn't have gotten a chance on radio without the hype for the participation of Rob Thomas, Lauryn Hill, Eric Clapton and others.

So Earth, Wind & Fire is working with Wyckel Jean, Eric Benet and others they won't name yet. Coupled with the Hall of Fame induction and the band's upcoming 30th anniversary, they hope it will attract attention.

"If you have Wyckel, if you have Rob Thomas or some of these people, then you can get on the radio and connect," Bailey said.

He concedes that's a delicate balancing act.

"In fact you work with some of the people you and you lose yourself in it — whether it's a success or not a success — you kind of lose," he said.

MUSIC NOTES

New Jersey State Opera to perform "Aida" at NJPAC

The New Jersey State Opera will feature two performance of the stage classic, "Aida," at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on March 17 at 7:30 p.m. and March 19 at 3 p.m.

The play, produced by maestro Alfredo Sillipigni will include a 70-voice chorus, 80-piece



Will Smith

orchestra — including six Egyptian trumpets — and members of the New Jersey Ballet and the New Jersey State Opera Young People's Chorus.

"Aida" is about an Ethiopian slave woman, her royal mistress' object of affection, creating a tale of love transcending class and state.

For more information, call 973/623-5775.

Smith, Murphy to join in website project

Will Smith and Eddie Murphy are in negotiations with DreamWorks and Imagine Entertainment to construct a website called Pop.com, which would feature five minute vignette with content created by and starring the two actors.

The site is expected to launch in June and will include one to six minute animated and live shorts, games, and pay-per-view programs.

Newark Boys Chorus School is auditioning

The Newark Boys Chorus School will be auditioning boys for September enrollment. There will be 16 openings for the fourth grade and very limited space for fifth grade. If you know a third grader who enjoys singing and shows good academic potential, the Newark Boys Chorus School would like to meet him. There are no resident requirements and formal singing training is not required. For more info call (973) 621-8900 to

Prince, Mary, DMX, honored at Soul Train Music Awards

By Cadena M Peyton

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prince took top honors along with Whitney Houston for the rare "Artist of the decade" awards at the annual Soul Train Music Awards on Saturday.

The female TLC took home two awards for best rhythm 'n' blues group for their frank put-down of men "No Scrubs" and best R&B/soul album for "Pan-mal." The dynamic group also nabbed two Grammy awards last month.

Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, the co-host of the show, was the only one present to accept the award for TLC. She used most of her acceptance speech to thank her family.

"To my brother who takes it much too personal when they don't play the rap version on the radio and my mother who's always there when I need her," Lopes said.

Mary J. Blige, who won best R&B female album, was named for the Sammy Davis Jr. Award for female "Entertainer of the Year." The male designer was multi-platinum selling hip-hop star DMX.

Blige mentioned that minorities have struggled for recognition. "It feels really good because this is a really big black awards show, for black music and black people," she said backstage. "And I am the struggle, I am black music and I am black people."

On stage Blige said she would not be here without her fans. "It's because of each and every one of you that I've lasted 10 years and I'm not even out of my 20s,"

she said.

"To all the thugs on the streets that give Mary love... to every little girl out there who ever wanted a Mary haul, thank you."

Gwynne won for best R&B male album for his "100% Gwynne."

Prince was singled out for his leadership during the decade for pioneering a concept of Internet distribution of CD releases by artists attached to his record label.

He said the "game" of life is a struggle and not everyone will win.

"A selected few of us will do well, the majority will not," he said.

"As a people we were considered a nuisance. We're the only ones that you are the most talented people."

Whitney Houston thanked God for her award as well as the individuals who worked on the album. Houston distinguished herself in the 1990s with millions of CD sales, while co-starring in movies "The Bodyguard," "The Preacher's Wife," and the television special "Cinderella."

Other winners included Lauryn Hill, who reigned at last year's show with three awards. She was awarded for her single "Ain't No Way" and made artist's Maxwell for his song "Fortunate."

Neither were present to accept their awards.

The show's hosts also included recording artists Tama and Eric Benet, and Shemar Moore, the newest host of the Soul Train TV program, which began airing in 1970.



Prince was honored with the "Artist of the Decade" Soul Train Music Award.

Billboard

MONDAY, APRIL 3

NEW YORK—Moody's Moods James Moody's 75th birthday bash featuring James Moody and a remarkable line-up of guest performers. Festivities start at 6 p.m. in Avery Fischer Hall. Tickets: \$20, \$30, \$5, \$40, \$50. For further information, call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 875-5244. Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

NEW YORK—"Jazz For Young People: What is Swing Dancing?" Hosted by Wynon Marshall with the L.C.O. At the Alice Tully Hall, tickets ages 18 and under \$10.00 Adults \$15.00. For further information call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 875-5244, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

NEW YORK—Cyrus Chestnut & Reginald Veal, Piano & Bass Duets will be appearing at Stanley H. Kaplan Performance Center. For further information, call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 875-5244, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

NEW YORK—Duets On the Hudson, featuring Andrew Hill & Bobby Hutcherson, piano & vibas, and Sam Rivers & Anthony Cole, reeds, piano & percussion at Stanley H. Kaplan Performance Center. For further information, call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 875-5244, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

SATURDAY, MAY 6

NEW YORK—Duets On The Hudson featuring Miles Mennet, & Han Bennik, piano & percussion, and Steve Lacy & Mal Waldron, soprano saxophone & piano at the Stanley H. Kaplan Performance Center. For further information, call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 875-5244.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

NEW YORK—Jazz On Film: Jitterbug Jump & Live Swing Dance on Film. Hosted by Frank Williams, Cynthia Milman, at the Walter Reade Theater, tickets \$10. For further information, call Jazz at Lincoln Center at (212) 875-5244, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

Don Cheadle's character learns about self and a new world in 'Mission to Mars'

LOS ANGELES—All works of art feature one of three basic conflicts: man vs man, man vs himself, and man vs nature. But in Don Cheadle's latest role as Mission Commander Luke Graham in "Mission to Mars," he finds all three in this science fiction flick about the ill-fated Mars One mission.

"I think what drew me to the role of Luke was that he was going to change 180 degrees from the first time you see him. From the beginning of the film to the end, he's an entirely different human being and that's always fun for an actor to play — the same person but a completely different aspect of that person, pushed as far as you can push it."

Graham is the first man on Mars and one marooned there. "He's a scientist," Cheadle said, "so the discovery of this anomaly is exciting and thrilling, but at the same time, he's seen it kill his crew. And he knows it's dangerous — it almost killed him. The explorer in him is passionate and the scientist is excited and the man with the wife and child back on Earth is terrified of what it all means."

The most challenging aspect of the role Cheadle said was "finding the right line between being as mad as the March Hare and the scientist whose mind is going two million miles an hour because he's discovered something that no other human being has ever seen. He's the only one alive at that point who can tell anyone about it, and he's also alone on the planet with that thing."

Cheadle enjoyed the work he did to prepare for Luke. "It was difficult trying to figure out how to prepare myself to

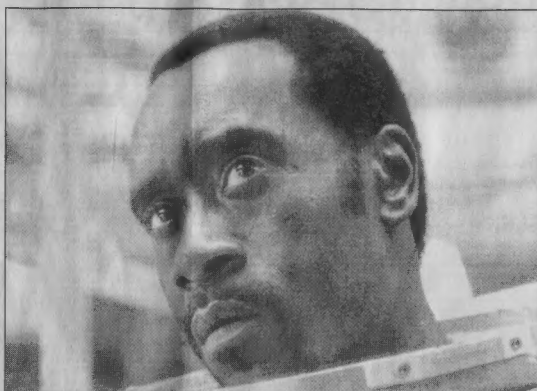


Photo courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

Don Cheadle

be an astronaut who gets stranded alone on Mars in 2020," Cheadle said. "I had to determine what would the character be eating for a year? What kind of exercise was he doing in a third gravity? What was his mental state?"

One of the things Cheadle did was spend several nights sleeping in the Mars One habitat set.

"I wanted to feel what it would be like to be alone in a completely foreign environment. I didn't stay there a week, or anything like that," he laughs. "I just stayed a few nights to try and get the feeling of isolation

and to make the set — if it was going to be my home for a year — my home for awhile and see how I would operate and work and where I would run if I thought there was trouble! It was helpful and more real and visceral than an idea might have been. And sometimes, it was really scary in there."

Cheadle was named Best Supporting Actor by the Los Angeles Film Critics for his breakout performance opposite Denzel Washington in "Devil in a Blue Dress."

He received an Emmy Award

nomination and a Golden Globe award for his portrayal of Sammy Davis Jr. in HBO's "The Rat Pack." He also earned an Emmy nomination for his role in HBO's "A Lesson Before Dying," along with Cicely Tyson and Mekhi Phifer.

He also appeared in "Bulworth," starring Warren Beatty, in which he received a NAACP Image Award nomination, and "Out of Sight," a Steven Soderbergh-directed adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel, co-starring George Clooney, Jennifer Lopez, and Ving Rhames.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Cheadle later relocated to Lincoln, Nebraska and Denver, Colorado before moving to Los Angeles. He attended the prestigious CalArts in Valencia, California where he received his Bachelor's Arts degree in Fine Arts.

Cheadle eventually auditioned for various film and television roles while in school and appeared in a recurring role in the 1980s hit "Fame."

The actor started appearing in a number of films after school, including "Hamburger Hill," "Boogie Nights," with Mark Wahlberg and Heather Graham, "Valencia," with Tommy Lee Jones, John Singleton's "Rushwood," which earned him a NAACP Image Award nomination, "Colors," and "Meteor Man," directed by Robert Townsend.

Cheadle has also made a name for himself in the genre of theater, in plays like "The Grapes of Wrath," "Liquid Skin," at the Mixed Blood Theater in Minneapolis, and "Cymbeline" at The New York Shakespeare Festival.

Other media Cheadle has broken into includes his numerous television roles, including his two-year role as district attorney John Littleton on the television series, "Detective Poole." He also graced the small screen in HBO movies like "Rebound: The Legend of Earl 'The Goat' Manigault," directed by Eric LaSalle.

In addition to his range as an actor, Cheadle is also a musician who plays saxophone, writes music, and sings.

He is also currently writing a screenplay, and shopping around his stage production, "Groomed." He is also preparing to direct a movie for Jesus Films.

Emmy Award winning actors to perform at Montclair State



MONTCLAIR— Emmy Award winners Roscoe Lee Browne, left, and Anthony Zerbe will star in "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium on March 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the Great Events offering are \$25. Tickets for seniors, students, MSU faculty, staff, alumni, and children are \$15. For more information, telephone (973) 655-5112.



Painter Charles Meyer received his MFA from Columbia University and completed postgraduate work at Cranbrook Academy of Art. He has lived and traveled in Italy, France, and Spain. He is also taught at Baruch College, College of New Rochelle, and City University of New York.

Newark Museum adds three new artists in residence

NEWARK—The Newark Museum has selected three artists for its Annual Artists in Residence program in the Arts Workshop for Adults, effective this month.

They are: Susan Spencer Reckford, a fiber artist from South Hills; Charles Meyers, a painter from New York City; and Leon Wilburn, a sculptor from Teaneck.

Reckford, a Dartmouth College graduate with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Stud-

ies, operates her own business creating wearable and one-of-a-kind works in fiber. She has held positions with the Environmental Defense Fund and Women's World Banking.

Painter Charles Meyers received his MFA from Columbia University and completed postgraduate work at Cranbrook Academy of Art. He has lived and traveled in Italy, France, and Spain. He is also taught at Baruch College, College of New Rochelle, and City University of New York.

Leon Wilburn was recently selected to attend the Washington D.C.-based Power of Art workshop supported by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

He studied in Europe and America, notably at the Corcoran School of Art, the Art Students League of New York, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. He has also taught for 15 years in the Teaneck Public School System and currently teaches at the Community School in Teaneck.

African Globe Studios to host Live Poetry Workshop

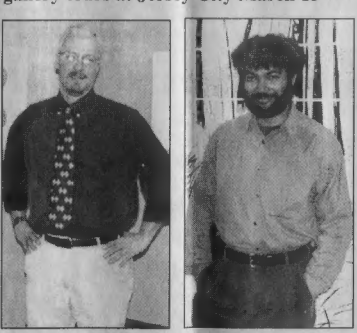
NEWARK—The House of Poetry at African Globe Studios is accepting applications for a live poetry workshop it will hold in May after school.

The workshop is an opportunity for high school students who are good at writing poetry, raps, and rhymes, and who like to perform their work on stage, to work with professional poets, actors, and musicians.

Those interested in applying must send an essay of 100 words or more to Margie Shaheed, Director of Poetry Programs, African Globe Studios on 1028 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07103. For more information, call (973) 624-1584.

The program is funded by the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, Inc.

Artists Fred Wilson, Jim Goss to conduct gallery tours at Jersey City March 15



Renowned artists Jim Goss, left, and Fred Wilson, right, will give gallery tours on March 15 at Jersey City Museum. Goss will show his exhibit, "Skin Deep," from 6 to 7 p.m., and Wilson will show his designs of the new railway from 7 to 8 p.m.

Benefit to feature autographed sports memorabilia and fine art



MORRIS TOWNSHIP—A Fine Art & Collectibles auction will be held on March 18 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Poughkeepsie Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Avenue, Morris Township, to benefit West Morris community service projects and the National Council of Jewish Women, West Morris section, who is sponsoring the event.

The auction will feature many autographed sports memorabilia and a contemporary array of art pieces representing many styles.

For more information, telephone (973) 885-3356.

Understanding the Tin Man

William July II Understanding the Tin Man (Double-day)

A lot of human men long for, but don't know how to make that desire a reality, according to William July II, and his new book examines why some men and women are emotionally inaccessible.

In the book, readers will find advice and exercises for "Tin Men" and their mates.

CityVerse

CityVerse features the works of aspiring poets and writers. If you have some work or know someone who does, entries (under 200 words) with your full name, pen name, photo (if you can), favorite writer and book, and literary goals to CityVerse, 111 Mulberry Street, Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102.

Keep It Real

By Bashere Jones

My brothers how do you feel

To your own people you lie, cheat, steal and kill and you tellin' me to keep it real

You're out there sellin' dope and crack knockin' people on there backs givin' your own folks heart attacks because you want one thing, a fat stack and you're tellin' me to keep it real

You think it's the other man, but if you look inside your mind it's your own people kickin' your behind how you gonna fight over land you don't own and your kids using a higher tone, thinkin' they're grown we think we can turn this around. I think it's a fairytale, all our brothers are in jail when we think we can succeed somebody tells us that we're gonna fail

When you kill a brother, ask his mother how does she feel She'll say "my little brother you shoulda kept it real!"

Bashere Jones is a 14-year-old poet who has been writing poetry over the past three years. "My poetry is about issues that concern me and my peers. My poetry give me an opportunity to express my feelings about the world today." Jones lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

Newark Housing Authority dares kids to dream

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

NEWARK — The first black governor of Virginia and in the United States — Douglas L. Wilder was a product of Virginia Union University. Filmmaker Spike Lee and actor Samuel L. Jackson honed their skills at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. With this being said, then it is no stretch of the imagination to believe that these historically black institutions played a key role in shaping the lives and careers of those considered to be of the black elite.

Like many of the high school sophomores and juniors who reside in public housing in Newark, many of today's black rich and famous started from humble beginnings. The Newark Housing Authority, which is sponsoring its second Historically Black College Bus Tour, will make it possible for some of the young people who board the deluxe motorcoach bus at 1 a.m. on April 17 to dream — to dream of a world beyond public housing. To dream of a life filled with hope and aspiration. To dream of all the endless possibilities. Indeed, the tour is designed to be inspiring.

"It was an eye opener for them," said Delmore Washington, assistant chief of Family Services. "Jobs you can find, careers are hard to come by. We try to steer them into career fields."

The tour which will hit the campus of Hampton University in Virginia, will then move on to North Carolina, where Winston Salem, Shaw, and Bennett Universities will be the focus, with the final leg of the tour arriving in Atlanta, Georgia, — a paradigm of black higher education. The students will visit the campuses of Clark, Spelman, Morehouse and Morris Brown Universities.

The Housing Authority is mindful of including all students and not just those at the top of their class. According to Gloria Currey-Williams, director of Family Services, the mission of the trip is to encourage students.

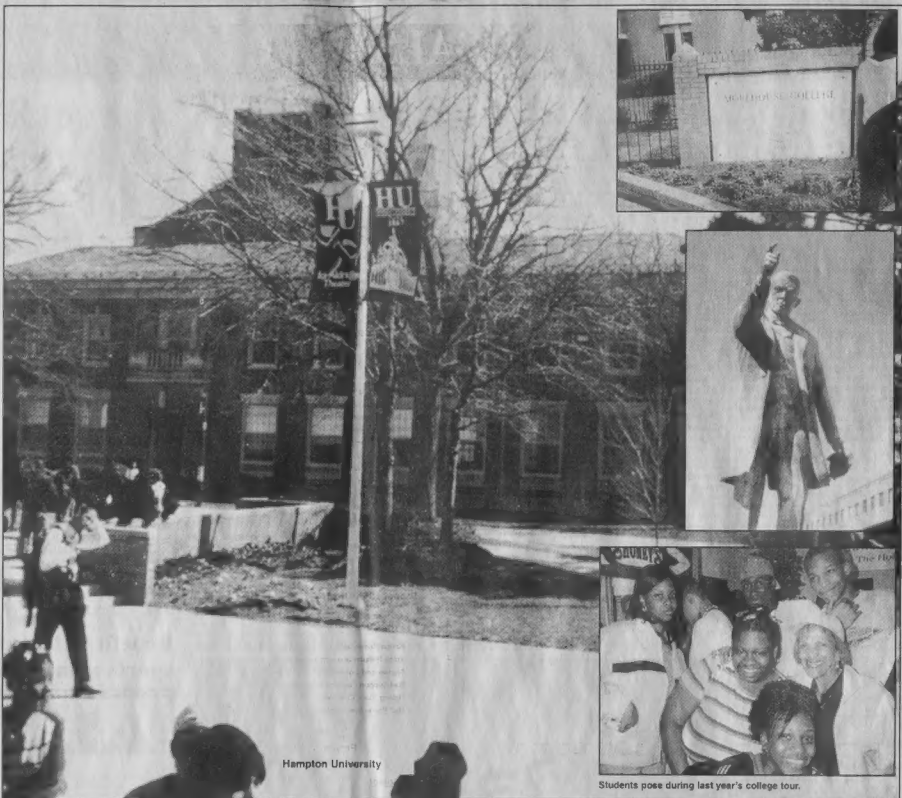
She said, "We're hoping to trigger them to take college prep courses and to make solid selections when picking electives."

Many of the students who go on the tour have never been exposed to college life, especially black college campuses. This makes the perspective of college more real for the kids.

"They were impressed by Atlanta's Clarke, Morehouse and Spelman," said Washington who was one of the chaperones on last year's tour. "We were there at lunch time with about 1,000 black students — no one was dressed thug-like. We went to Morgan and the guide there was from Newark. He was president of the senior class. He could relate to them (the high school students) and they to him."

The Authority was impressed with Virginia State University because the representatives from the school made a commitment to nurture any student who made the decision to attend, and to work with them in terms of any deficiencies including financial ones.

The tour schedule is intense with the kids up and ready to roll at 6 a.m. — it's definitely no country club tour, considering the tour hits nine colleges in four days, returning to Newark on April 21. Sophomores and juniors interested in attending this year's tour must be a resident of Newark Public Housing, submit a two-page double spaced essay pertaining to: "The Importance of a College Education," and a \$25 registration fee, which is refundable in cash on the day the tour departs. For additional information contact Mike Mendez at (973) 430-2577. The deadline is approaching fast — don't have your dream deferred sign up today for The Newark Housing Authority's Historically Black College Bus Tour!



Hampton University

Students pose during last year's college tour.

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April 27, 2000

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CONSTRUCTION MONITORING SERVICES AS NEEDED 2000-2001

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) is seeking qualified firms for the construction monitoring services, including on-site inspection services, as required by the CRDA in Atlantic City, NJ and possibly elsewhere. The CRDA may, from time to time, solicit specific proposals from firms whose qualifications are appropriate for specific projects. Neither the number nor the identity of the projects is known at this time. The projects are likely to be sporadic, relatively small expenditures, and are located in Atlantic City, NJ. Similar services for major projects are likely to be bid by separate Requests for Proposals.

PLEASE NOTE the construction monitoring services required by CRDA are not to be confused with construction "management" services. The services required are those that are necessary to the construction of construction projects, as typically needed by a construction lender. Such services may include services such as but not limited to: (1) attending meetings with project developers and contractors; (2) collection and review of contract documents, specifications, drawings, budgets, applicable laws, and other documentation; (3) review of invoices and recommendation of payments; (4) review of change orders; (5) auditing all stages of the construction project; and periodic reports on the status of the project, budget and schedule; (6) periodic on-site inspections to monitor the amount and quality of construction completed and to verify the propriety of all requests for payment; (7) final inspection of the project and issuance of an audit and final completion report certifying that the work has been completed and reviewed and approved by appropriate authorities; and that all payments have been made correctly; and that there are no known unresolved major construction disputes which would impact the CRDA's interest; and providing a project summary analysis of the actual costs compared to the projected costs; and recommending release of any retainage held by the CRDA. From time to time assignments may also involve: (1) construction scheduling; (2) build up/tear down evaluation; (3) cost estimating; (4) value engineering.

In selecting the most highly-qualified professional firm with which to contract for these services, the CRDA shall consider the following criteria:

1. The experience and qualifications of the firm and designated project team in providing construction monitoring services on projects of similar size and complexity in Atlantic City (or other municipalities where the project is located);
2. The experience and capability of the firm and designated project team in respect to any special techniques, technologies, or expertise the firm may require;
3. The past performance of the firm.

Interested parties are invited to submit a proposal to the CRDA by the deadline of March 17, 1999, at 12:00 P.M. (N.J. 17:27) (Law Agency Discrimination in Public Contract). The contract shall be between the CRDA and the Consultant, and shall be acceptable in form and content to the CRDA.

Please send your qualifications to:

Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
1014 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-347-6500

\$163.18



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the City of Orange is seeking a multi-disciplined architectural and engineering firm (A/E) to provide professional services for the implementation of work items included in the 1999 Comprehensive Grant Program (CGP) as follows:

1. ND51 - (4 buildings) and NJ 25-2 (4 buildings) upgrade elevators. Budget Amount \$400,000.00.
- Interested A/E firms are invited to contact Harold A. Phipps, Executive Director, at (973) 677-4553 if there are any questions on construction intent.

Specifications can be obtained at the Administrative Office of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange, 340 Thomas Boulevard, Orange, New Jersey during regular business hours or can be mailed by calling (973) 677-4553.

Two (2) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 3:0 p.m. on April 10, 2000.

Harold A. Phipps, M.B.A.
Executive Director

\$37.06

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NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION FISCAL YEAR 2000 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for \$158.4 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating, capital, and planning assistance, \$505.41 million for capital projects under Section 5308, \$2.12 million under Section 5310 for transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and \$2.38 million under Section 5311 for transportation in rural areas. It also NJ TRANSIT's intent to apply for \$10.00 million of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds and \$2.00 million under the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program authorized by TEA-21.

Federal operating funds will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipients in conformance with Federal and State guidelines. NJ TRANSIT intends to provide the non-Federal share of capital projects through credit for toll revenues and State funds committed to Urban Core projects as allowed by TEA-21. The Fiscal Year 2000 program is described below.

Proposed Section 5307 Formula Operating and Capital Program (in Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Operating Assistance	0.42
Morristown Valley Improvements	15.57
Rail Preventive Maintenance	41.30
Hudson-Trent Rehabilitation	8.19
Newark River Station Improvements	2.80
Newark River Station Station Improvements	4.10
Newark River Station Station Improvements	59.84
Penn Station, New York Improvements	1.00
Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link Construction	4.08
Baldwin Station Leases	5.46
Purchase Light Rail Passenger Cars	3.20
Purchase Light Rail Vehicles	6.06
Miscellaneous Bus Facility and Equipment	0.19
Newark City Subway Station Improvements	-3.70
Total	159.02

Proposed Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization Formula Program (in Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Bridge Rehabilitation	7.78
Track Rehabilitation/Improvements	20.42
Signals and Communication/Electric Traction Upgrades	11.28
Rail Support Facilities Improvements	5.33
Building Signal Leases	12.50
Rail Preventive Maintenance	14.82
Total	79.93

Proposed Section 5309 New Start Bus Programs (in Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Purchase Buses	7.85
South Jersey Intermodal Transportation Initiative	1.23
West Trenton Rail Line Study	0.88
Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link Construction	11.77
Trans-Hudson Midtown Corridor Study	4.80
Newark Intermodal Improvements	1.62
Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit System Construction	87.13
Total	125.48

Proposed Section 149 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (in Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Railroad Improvements	2.85
Monitor Connection Construction	5.00
Bus Emission Control	-2.15
Total	10.00

A. Property Acquisition/Environmental, Economic, and Social Aspects

Any property acquisition or relocation that may be required will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the law and regulatory requirements. As appropriate, impact findings may be presented at a future public hearing and further public comment will be solicited. Prior to the implementation of any of the projects and to the extent required, the TRANSIT may prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Federal regulations. The availability of this document will be made known by publication in the same manner as the notice of TRANSIT will be made known by Federal notices and regulations affecting properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Comprehensive Planning

NJ TRANSIT projects are developed in coordination with the following planning organizations: The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the North Jersey Urbanized area; the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which is the designated MPO for Camden, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester counties; and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, which is the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forums for local decision-making concerning the proposed projects. The projects are developed in consultation with local elected officials, interested citizens, and providers of private bus services.

C. Private Enterprise Participation

Through the comprehensive planning process administered by the MPOs and ongoing communication with NJ TRANSIT, Office of Private Enterprise Affairs, NJ TRANSIT continues to discuss with private entities their participation in the capital program. In addition, NJ TRANSIT encourages, to the maximum extent possible, the participation of the private sector in the development and implementation of public transportation in the State of New Jersey.

D. Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities

Services to be provided will be consistent with NJ TRANSIT's program of reduced interstate and interstate and bus fares for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Every reasonable effort will be made to plan and design program elements involving facilities generally available to the public with careful consideration of the special needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

E. Public Input

NJ TRANSIT invites public comments on the above program and its performance. Written comments and/or requests for a public hearing may be sent to: Alfred R. Harnbrook, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza, Newark, New Jersey 07102-2446 by March 30, 2000. If comments received in response to the notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may modify the above program before final submission to the Federal Transit Administration and will make a determination, pursuant to FTA regulations as to whether a public hearing is in order. The above list of proposed projects will become the final list of projects unless modification is given in the same manner as this public notice.

Jeffrey A. Worth
Executive Director
New Jersey Transit Corporation

City News

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The Pleasant Housing Authority is seeking an experienced Superintendent with experience in plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, grounds maintenance, and general maintenance work. Must be an apartment provided by the Housing Authority. Must have a Low Pressure Boiler License. Must own automobile, have valid Driver's License, and use automobile for travel and pick up. Salary based on experience. If interested, call Sandra Ortiz for an application (973) 365-0300 and deadline 3/26/00.

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Salary: Commensurate with skills. Mail or fax your resume to: City News Publishing Co., 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, NJ Fax: 973-642-5444

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Newark-Layout & graphic design of weekly 5 monthy newspaper. Must be very computer literate in layout design, proficient in Quark Express, Photoshop & Illustrator. Must have scanner exp. for text & photos, editing skills, multi-task oriented. Able to meet deadlines & have great organizational skills & have a solid work history. Interested parties should send resume to: City News Publishing Co., 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, NJ Fax # (973) 642-5444

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Newark, NJ - To assist production in scanning & editing type, includes some layout & telephone work. Must have great organizational & computer skills, to meet deadlines & multi-task oriented. Immediate opening. Salary: Commensurate with skills. Send or fax your resume to: City News Publishing Co., 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102 Fax (973) 642-5444

Ponder
This...

By Greg Moore

Jets shop
Johnson

By the time you read this column, there is a very good chance that the Jets may have already discarded its superstar wide-receiver Keyshawn Johnson. If this is indeed the case, then I can offer no better anecdotal evidence explaining why the Jets are destined to under achieve.

Now I've heard all the arguments in favor of why moving Johnson would not be a particularly bad deal (e.g., you can't build a team around a receiver, can circumvent an imminent outrageous salary demand, etc.) but it's all a bunch of bull. Johnson may not be extraordinarily fast or quick, and he may not possess the athletic gifts of a Randy Moss, but Johnson, in many respects provides the long suffering Jets franchise with its organizational self-esteem.

The Jets have long been a team which was sorely in need of believers in the locker room, the front office, and among its fans. Keyshawn gave the Jets a reason to talk trash again. Johnson provided the Jets with a much needed swagger which is a very real sense, manifested on game days as a form of confidence not around Gang Green for some time.

Before, the Jets or Director of Football Operations Bill Parcells pulls the trigger on this mega deal, all concerned parties on the Jets end need to strongly consider who will fill the confidence and which will surely emerge if Johnson is traded. Hopefully, the Jets will wake up before they pull the trigger and cause a serious self-inflicted wound to its future prospects.

Playing for Keeps: Stephen Marbury Carries Nets into Second Half of the Season

Hopefully, Stephen's Marbury's critics and the NBA coaches that decided to leave Starbury off the NBA all-star team are taking notice of this. Clearly, no other point guard is enjoying the type of second-half of the year which Marbury is having. If the Nets manage to squeak into the playoffs, expect Marbury to serve some healthy portions of cold revenge.

Hall of famer
Greg Grant
is named
ShoreCats
head coach

LONG BRANCH — Trenton High School Hall of Famer, Greg Grant has been named the new head coach of the New Jersey ShoreCats. Grant steps into the post once occupied by basketball legend Rick Barry.

Grant was named the best Division III player in state history by the New Jersey College Basketball Writers Association. He scored a state-record of 2,611 points during his career at Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey).

He enjoyed six-years in the NBA, with Phoenix, New York, Charlotte and Philadelphia. He brings his experience with the Trenton Stars of the IBL where he was an assistant coach and then head coach.

Grant, who brings tremendous work ethic to the ShoreCats — which will enter its third-season vows to put a team on the floor that will work hard and come to play every night.

Saint Barnabas Health Care System in conjunction with Monmouth Medical Center and Kimball Medical Center, is the official Health Care System for the ShoreCats.

'Beisbol Behind the Veil:' The Latin Baseball Players in the Negro Leagues



The famed Newark Eagles is one of many teams in the Negro League that attracted Latin players.

NEW BRUNSWICK — An exciting, historical exhibit, 'Beisbol Behind the Veil: Latino Baseball Players in the Negro Leagues' will open with a reception to be held on March 19, from 1-4 p.m., at the Naval Reserve Center Gymnasium on Front Street in Perth Amboy. The exhibit is presented by the Middlesex County Cultural Heritage Commission, the City of Perth Amboy and the NAACP-Mtchuen-Edison Areas Branch.

Latinos have been honored among the immortals at Cooperstown as integral to the history of the "national pastime." But, it wasn't always that way. During the first half of the century, the majority of Latin American players were excluded from the major leagues, obscured by the veil of prejudice. Along with African Americans, they were barred because of the color of their skin.

As a result, for over forty years Latin American athletes

competed and excelled in the Negro Leagues.

At 1:30 p.m., Todd Bolton, the curator of the exhibit, will present a lecture on the exhibit contents and historical significance.

Several former players will also be on hand to answer questions and visit with fans. The exhibit will continue to be open to the public through April 30. Hours are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, from 9-8 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-6 p.m.

This exhibit follows Latin American players from the early days of barnstorming teams, through the decades of Negro League baseball. Highlighted are many of the great Latin American athletes and the Negro League records that they hold. Admission is free, however you must register for the opening reception.

For additional information or to register call the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission at (732) 745-3888.

Ernest Olius: ECC's
all star scoring leader

NEWARK — Hillside's Ernest Olius has capped off a stellar career at Essex County College by being named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Adidas soccer All-American team for two-year colleges.

"This is something I have always dreamed about," said Olius, who grew up in Haiti and has lived in Hillside for the past five years. "Sure I had a good season, but it was disappointing that we couldn't win the national title."

ECC finished 14-5 in 1999 and a sixth place finish in the National Athletic Association soccer tournament. The Wolverines lost a heartbreaking 2-1 decision in the second round to Bryant Straton College of Syracuse, before defeating Georgia Perimeter and losing to Belleville (Illinois) College to finish sixth in the eight team field.

Olius has also earned first team All-Region 19 honors in the two years he played at ECC. He scored 14 goals and had 17 assists this past season.

In addition to his penchant for scoring, Olius also takes great pride in his defense.

"This is an honor for both Ernest and the college. Over the two seasons he played for me, I saw Ernest grow into a much more disciplined and team player," said ECC soccer coach Alphonsse Prophete. "I certainly would like him to continue his education and soccer development at the collegiate level."

That is precisely what the 23-year-old criminal justice major intends to do. Olius is planning to transfer to a four-year college and is currently sifting through several schools.

He began playing soccer in Haiti as a young boy. His overall skills enabled him to play as a teen in Division II, a mid-ranking division, in that island nation.

"I graduated from high school in Haiti, but my mother and I felt I should come to the United States to continue my education," Olius explained. "I initially took classes at Hillside High School to improve my classroom skills."

He initially enrolled at ECC in the fall of 1997 to further boost his English before joining the soccer team in 1998.



Ernest Olius

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The Garden State
Yankees baseball team

The Garden State Yankees baseball team is in need of players 19 and up to play in a wood bat Sunday double header league. The team will play in tournaments and play in pro stadiums.

Please call 1-800-280-6569

The new mustangs

The new mustang competitive baseball team is now holding tryouts for competitive spring, summer and fall for wood bat national tournaments. This club prefers players with college and former pro tournament experience. We need coaches too! Please call John 908-231-6919

The Ten Star All Star
Basketball Camp.

Applications are now being evaluated by The Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp.

Boys and girls ages 7 - 19 can apply. Players are selected by invitation only. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill, Bobby Hurley, Christian Laettner. Camp locations include: Rochester, NY, Riverside, CA, Babson Park, FL, Atlanta, GA, Champaign, IL, Fort Wayne, IN, Atchison, KS, Georgetown, KY, North field, MN. Large Basketball Scholarships are possible for the most advanced players. For an evaluation form call (704) 372-8610

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